

Yunmeng Mountain has much to offer for one last weekend getaway, before hiking boots are exchanged for skis.

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An accomplished gourmand was the creator of a cuisine that later developed into an important school of Sichuan cooking.

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She was struck by the contrasts: fierce and tender, strong and beautiful, sweet and aggressive, all at the same time.

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Conference Issues World Economic Development Declaration

The World Economic Development Declaration Conference (WEDDC) issued the Zhuhai Declaration yesterday, the first day of the conference. The two-day conference is taking place in China's southern city of Zhuhai.

The declaration, also called the World Economic Development Declaration, contains nine main parts dealing with interdependence, scientific and technological progress, efficient use of

resources, sustainable development, distribution, competition, financing of economic development, economic development and education and human factors in economic development.

The declaration aims to promote the establishment of a new world economic era featuring equality, mutual benefit, interdependence and common development, and the achieving of the Millennium Development Goals as determined by

the UN Millennium Summit.

Participants of the conference agreed that peace and development are the common aspirations of people of all countries and are the main themes of today's world. Peace is the basis for development and development promotes peace. It is everyone's common duty to promote world economic development and safeguard the world peace with "equality, credibility, cooperation and development" as the basic criteria.

According to the declaration, under market economy conditions, countries and economies of the world trade in goods and services with and invest in each other. Science and technology play an important role in economic development. All kinds of the finite natural resources should be used according to the laws of science in an efficient way and global economic resources should be distributed in an optimum manner.

Sustainable development was

also stressed in the declaration. Man should coexist with nature in harmony so that people, resources and ambiance interact with each other in a perfect circle, thus offering a favorable environment for a steady economic growth and ensuring the sustainable economic development of the world.

The declaration pointed out that increasing incomes and wealth should be fairly distributed among all countries and

within each country. Competition is conducive to production, economic growth and efficient use of limited resources.

A more fair and reasonable financial system for supporting world economic development must be set up to facilitate the flows of funds, and to increase the transparency of the flows of funds among the nations and markets. Education and skill development should be promoted for all peoples of the world. (Xinhua)

New Long Marchers March into History

By Xiao Rong

Finally, they made it. After 384 days on the New Long March trail, Ed Jocelyn and Andrew McEwen reached their destination, Wuqi County, Shaanxi Province, at around 5:30 pm Monday.

Starting on October 16, 2002 from Yudu, Jiangxi Province, Jocelyn and McEwen have been retracing the trail of the original Long March of the Chinese Red Army, crossing ten provinces and autonomous regions. In doing so, they have become the first foreigners to tread this route since Otto Braun, the German military advisor who accompanied the original Long Marchers.

Reaching the end one day later than scheduled and two weeks after the date the original Long March finished, the two Englishmen looked both excited and exhausted. Surrounded by local school children, they walked through the curious welcoming crowd like heroes, with red flags draped over their shoulders, each waving a bunch of flowers.

The first thing both of them did after settling into the Wuqi Hotel was to call their parents on their satellite phone, they told *Beijing Today*.

"It has been a very long journey. I have never been more tired in all my life, but today is one of our happiest days because we've come to the end," said 35-year-old Jocelyn. "And even if I were offered one million dollars to repeat the journey, I would say no, though I have no regrets about having done it."

"Wuqi before was kind of dreamland to us, but finally Wuqi is a real place," McEwen, 37, added.

For the previous 23 days, the duo walked an average of 30 kilometers per day. And on the final day, they walked a record 37 kilometers. *Beijing Today* caught up with them Monday morning at Xinzhaixiang, about 25 kilometers from Wuqi, in time to witness their last brunch on the road.

They arrived at Xinzhaixiang at about 10:10, slightly ahead of schedule. Walking into a roadside restaurant, the duo ordered two plates of *chaomianpian* (fried noodles) "with eggs but no meat."

Although only McEwen is a vegetarian, ordering the same food along the way has become common practice for them, just to keep things simple. "It's really lucky that we have been recently walking across the northwest part of China, where noodles are the staple food. That's good to my stomach,"

McEwen told *Beijing Today*.

Suffering from gastritis for the past seven months, McEwen was forced to return to Beijing in late July for two weeks of medical treatment. But he managed to subsequently rejoin Jocelyn, contrary to expectations.

When asked what was the biggest benefit of completing the New Long March, both hesitated to give a definite answer. But they both agreed that learning to become "aggressive and not so courteous" was one of the changes the experience had made to their characters. "I feel more confident to be able to find positive resolutions in handling difficult situations," Jocelyn added, saying they still need time to ponder the deeper benefits.

The two marchers have clearly paid a lot, both physiologically, economically and mentally. One direct outcome is the significant loss of weight that many of their friends have commented on. Another is that both are now deeply in debt.

Neither, however, view such results as sacrifice. It was those red army veterans who truly suffered during the original Long March, they pointed out. Their New Long March, equipped with modern communications equipment and with no enemies on their heels, was a relatively comfortable expedition.

"The veterans, not us, should best understand the real Long March spirit. And our plan is to study and document the living history along the route of the Long March," McEwen explained. "Another important reason that we want to study the Long March is because it's the founding myth of new China, which is the most important story to understand modern China."

For their study, the pair have met 11 Long March veterans and interviewed 107 witnesses, compiling two notebooks of diaries and over 20,000 photographs. A New Long March photo exhibition is due to open at the Millennium Monument in Beijing on January 15, 2004, and an album of photos will be released at the same time. A book recording their experience is also planned for next year, to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the original Long March.

"Actually the ending of the New Long March trail is only the beginning of our research, as we will continue to visit more veterans back in Beijing and collect more material," said Jocelyn. "In this sense, we are still on the road for the truth of the history." (Continued on Page 2)



Andrew McEwen and Ed Jocelyn set out from Yudu, Jiangxi Province on October 16, 2002. (top left)
Victorious arrival in Wuqi (top right)
Twenty-five kilometers out of Wuqi (above)

Photos by Xiao Rong / Chen Shuyu

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Road Traffic Safety Law Approved

By Wang Xiaoxiao

A new law on road traffic safety is to go into effect nationwide on May 1 next year. The law was approved by the Fifth Session of the 10th National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee on October 28.

One of the most hotly debated aspects of the law has been the issue of who should be held responsible in accidents involving vehicles and pedestrians. It had been suggested that drivers should bear no responsibility in accidents caused by pedestrians, however this proposal has been rejected.

"The law not only reflects the dignity of the law itself, but also shows the legislators' care for lives," NPC Standing Committee member Jiang Ying was quoted as saying in *Beijing Youth Daily*. According to the new law, drivers should be held responsible for accidents between their vehicles and pedestrians or non-motor vehicles, but if there is evidence that the pedestrian or non-motor vehicle had broken the traffic law, and that the driver had taken all reasonable measures to avoid the accident, the driver's responsibility may be lessened or even negated.

The new law also includes

specific regulations regarding the impounding of illegally parked cars, an issue that has long been a major cause of disputes between drivers and traffic police. According to the law, if the owner of car is at the scene, police should give an oral warning and demand the car be driven away. If the owner is not there or refuses to follow the instruction, the police can impose a fine from 20 to 200 yuan on the owner and tow the car away, but cannot charge for towing the car. If the car is improperly towed and damaged as a result, the owner is entitled to demand compensation

from the police.

The law also gives pedestrians absolute right of way on marked crossings and limits the privileges of cars bearing special licence plates. It also contains a stricter definition of drunk driving and imposes heavier penalties.

"The new law will help regulate Beijing's traffic, but the most important thing is that those who break the law should certainly be punished. No matter how severe the law is, it will only work when it really works," commented Elmira Gaberova, a Bulgarian who has lived in China for several years.



Extension Plan Chosen for New Airport Terminal

By Chen Si

The design plan for a new passenger terminal at Beijing Capital Airport has been chosen, according to a report in Thursday's *Beijing Star Daily*.

The plan was one of seven shortlisted finalists that have been on show at the airport since September. The winning design is by Netherlands Airport Consultants (NACO) and Dutch firm Foster and Arup.

The new terminal, which resembles a

cross-section of Paris' Eiffel Tower from above, is expected to become a new symbol of the capital. It will feature a parking area able to accommodate 10,000 cars, an improved taxi area, and rapid access to city trains and buses. It will cover an area of 350,000 square meters, twice that of the present terminal.

Construction is scheduled to start on March 28 next year, and is due for completion in 2007.

EU Opens to Chinese Visitors

By Sun Ling

China and the European Union (EU) signed a tourism agreement on October 30 that is expected to greatly facilitate travel by Chinese tour groups to Europe. Though the agreement still needs to be ratified by the EU member states, it is expected to be finalized early next year.

The authorized destination status (ADS) agreement, reached following the EU-China summit in Beijing, will simplify visa procedures for Chinese tour group to Europe. "Last year some 1.3 million European tourists came to China, but only 650,000 Chinese tourists went to Europe," an EU official said. The EU members are expected to see a significant increase in Chinese tourists to their countries in the following year.

Besides EU members, China has signed ADS agreements with 18 countries, including Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, New Zealand, Australia and Japan. When asked to comment on the EU-China agreement, tourism organizations in those countries generally responded favorably, commenting that with more authorized destinations, Chinese tourists will have more choices, and thus more interest in traveling.

The agreement represents a potential gold mine for Chinese travel agencies, with many people already planning to take advantage of the agreement and visit Europe next year.

New Regulation on Temporary Residence Permit

By Huang Chunchen

Hong Kong and Macao residents and overseas Chinese who live and work in Beijing no longer need to apply for temporary residence licenses. The new regulation took effect from November 1.

Along with this new policy, Hong Kong and Macao residents and overseas Chinese can use their entrance pass to the mainland, passport, work permit or residence permit to pick up goods from customs, purchase cars and apply for drivers' licenses.

In the past, Hong Kong and Macao residents and overseas Chinese were required to show a temporary residence permit, obtained from the Public Security Bureau, to handle such affairs in Beijing.

Highs and Lows of the New Long March



By Ed Jocelyn/
Andrew McEwen

We are sad to announce this is the last dispatch we'll be sending you from the Red Army Trail.

As we approach the finish line in Wuqi, Shaanxi Province, we've been totting up Long March statistics and reviewing the best and worst of our year on the road.

For example, for all of you who believed the Long March was 25,000 *li*, we're sorry to say it adds up to just under 12,000 *li* – 6,120 kilometers is our best estimate. You need to add the journeys of the 2nd, 6th and 4th Front Armies all together if you want something around 25,000 *li*.

More surprising to us were the Snow Mountain stats. Our history books all told us there were five, but we looked everywhere and only came up with four.

And Jiajinshan was the smallest, not the biggest.

Asking the way was perhaps the toughest challenge of the whole journey. We reckon locals answered our questions by saying, "You won't find the road" approximately 568 times. They also liked to tell us we would have problems because the people "over there" wouldn't be able to speak Chinese.

The number of times people "over there" couldn't speak Chinese was...zero.

We were tested for SARS 11 times, and detained by SARS officials once. This latter event happened in Qinglong Village, Yunnan, whose officials win "Worst Local Government" of the New Long March. They ordered our detention during the SARS epidemic, while they hid in the government building and refused to speak to us. After we released ourselves and marched into the government

building to demand an explanation, they had the gall to invite us to lunch. Thanks, but no thanks, Party Secretary Li.

We met 1,167 policemen on the Long March route. The "Best Policeman" award goes to Tang Hongyun, Ganziyuan, Dao County, who fed us and found us a place to sleep after we received a frosty welcome from locals.

The "Worst Policeman" prize was easily scooped by Li Qinghong, Jin'er, Xingwen County, Sichuan, who on grounds of "safety" had us thrown out of our guesthouse after dark and then suggested we walk to the county town, 30 kilometers away. We slept rough on the local government steps opposite the police station, where Officer Li slept in warmth and comfort. We asked if we could sleep in the police station where it was safe.

"The police station is not a guesthouse," said Officer Li.

Neither, apparently, was the guesthouse.

On at least 237 occasions, we were asked, "How do you keep going on such a long journey?" For this, we refer to our "Biggest Inspiration" award-winner. Li Bin of the China Friendship Research Association gave us an arrogant and ignorant lecture about the Long March, reneged on a promise to help us, and concluded by suggesting we "think again" about our project. The memory of our meeting with Li saw us through the most difficult times.

But one question outdid all others for popularity on the New Long March.

"Why don't you get the bus?"

We heard this approximately 3,268 times. And it was a good question every time. If we never hear that question again, it will be too often.

If anyone knows where Andy and Ed can find the missing Snow Mountain, or would like to know anything more about the New Long March, visit www.longmarch2003.com or write to xinchangzhengren2003@yahoo.com.cn

(Continued from Page 1)

Restrictions Relaxed on Overseas Investors

By Sun Ling

The State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) approved Chongqing Municipality, Guangxi Autonomous Region and Hubei and Hunan provinces recently as trial areas for overseas investment reform. The move brings the total number of such trial areas to 14.

According to measures that took effect on November 1, these 14 areas are allowed to approve overseas investments of up to \$3 million, versus a previous ceiling of \$10 million.

Other new measures include: allowing domestic investors to remit funds to overseas projects during startup stage; further clarification of documents needed to apply for overseas purchasing and fund increasing projects; improving foreign currency registration of overseas investment projects; and strengthening supervision of overseas investment.

In related moves, China has this year cut export incentives, tightened rules on lending to property investors and restricted quotas for foreign banks investing in Chinese stocks and bonds.

Some analysts say this policy was carried out to deflect US pressure for a revaluation of the *Renminbi*. Though the easing of investment restrictions is not so significant in itself, taken with the other changes and diplomatic deals, it will contribute toward a more stabilized yuan.

Since the first trial areas were approved in October last year, overseas investment reform has been carried out for more than one year. In the coming years, SAFE will gradually approve more trial provinces or regions as they meet certain criteria.

City Opens Assets to Private Investors

By Chen Si

Over 55 billion yuan in assets of workable basic infrastructure are to be fully opened to private investors in Beijing within five years, according to *China News Agency* on October 24.

Yan Xiaoyan, general economist of Beijing Development and Reformation Committee, said at the Seventh Beijing-Hong Kong Economic Cooperation Symposium on October 23 that over 170 items, covering US \$9.7 billion, have been recommended and many of the workable basic infrastructure items are to be open to private capital, state owned capital and foreign capital.

Workable basic infrastructure includes water, electricity and heat supply and sewage systems. The Beijing government hopes the move will break the industry monopoly and introduce competition.

In addition, certain basic infrastructure items for which management income is less than cost, such as traffic management, the government will provide private investors with subsidies and preferential policies to repay the investment.

Yan also indicated that non-workable basic infrastructure items such as city roads and public green belts, would be primarily invested by the government.

Second Phase of 3G Testing to Start Soon

By Chen Si

China will start the second phase of the trial of its third generation (3G) mobile communications system next February.

Lou Qinqian, vice-minister of Information Industry (MI), announced on October 30 in Beijing that the first phase of testing had just ended, that results were promising and that field testing will start soon.

With 250 million mobile telecommunication subscribers, China has become a key market for international and domestic telecom operators, equipment and phone makers.

"From the test results on the MTNet in the Chinese Academy of Telecommunication Research (CATR), we believe the 3G technologies are mature, as are the conditions for the field test," Lou said at the opening of the 3G in China Global Summit on October 30. "We believe the results of the second phase test would pave the way for the rollout of 3G by telecom operators in the near future." Lou also pointed out that China should continue to research industry policies involving the market and avoid any risks associated with a premature launch.

Wen Ku, director of MI's department of Science and Technology, said the second phase of testing will be conducted in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou and would involve all three 3G standards – wideband code division multiple access, CDMA 2000 and time division synchronous CDMA.

The focus of the trial will be on the inter-connection of systems from different vendors and between mobile phones and networks, as well as the compatibility of the second generation and 3G systems and coverage quality.

Japanese Logistics Enterprise Extends Market in Beijing

By Huang Chunchen

Japan's largest logistics enterprise, Sagawa Logistics, established a subsidiary company in Beijing on October 28. Named Beijing Sumisho Sagawa Logistics, it will extend its delivery area to all regions of Beijing, as well as all over China.

The company is invested by Sagawa Logistics, Beijing Holdings and Sumitomo Corporation, with total registered capital of US \$3.62 million. It is based at Beijing Logistics Port.

The major business of the new company will initially be small goods delivery service, in order to develop the logistics market in Beijing. It provides urban and provincial transport service, including ordinary freight transport, express transport, goods delivery, refrigerated and frozen transport, containerized traffic, storage and a logistics advisory service. Ten transfer stations will be set up throughout the city.

Entrepreneur Sent to Jail on Iffy Financial Charges

Verdict in millionaire's case exposes problems facing private businesses in seeking financing



After being released from detention, Sun Dawu went to the construction site for a new library for the Dawu High School run by his company. Building of the library has stopped as a result of Sun's legal troubles.

Photo by Lou Ge

By Shan Jinliang

A private entrepreneur in Hebei Province was sentenced to three years in jail and four years' probation on October 30 for illegally borrowing over 13 million yuan from local farmers. The case is widely regarded as highly indicative of the out-of-date laws and other pitfalls that stand as obstacles to the development of private domestic businesses.

Sun Dawu, 49, chairman of Dawu Agricultural and Breeding Group Company in Xushui County, Hebei borrowed the funds from the farmers between January 2000 and May this year.

After he was initially detained in July, he gave a public statement explaining he had intended to use the money to develop his company and support a private middle school he set up for the benefit of all Xushui residents.

Dawu Group is valued at over 100 million yuan and Sun Dawu previously held the title of richest man in Hebei. No greedy wealth hoarder, Sun invested a considerable amount of money in 1998 to establish the private Dawu High School, which includes primary, junior and senior level education. Tuition charges were kept low, so the school was reliant on funds from Dawu Group to keep operating. After investing nearly 1.7 million yuan in the school, Sun began to seek outside financing to support its operation.

He told *Beijing Youth Daily* on Monday, "We have tried to borrow money from local banks since 1993, but we never got anything." Sun's son, Sun Meng, acting chairman of Dawu group, said his father's relatively upright character was a factor in his downfall. He gave an example of one time when Sun vowed to take back a 10,000 yuan bribe he had given to a senior official of a local financial institution with the hopes of getting a loan after the official failed to grant any financial assistance. Sun's insistence that the money be returned soured the relationships between his company and many financial institutions.

Sun Dawu was officially detained by the Xushui County Public Security Bureau on July 7, and the Xushui County Procuratorate Court charged Dawu Group and Sun with illegally soliciting financing in September. Before the court, Sun's lawyers argued that most of the money was borrowed from employees or their relatives and friends who have economic relations to the company and called the "illegal financing" charges vague

and groundless.

In July, before the trial began, Sun's lawyer, Zhang Xingshui told the media that he expected his client to get 10 years in prison. The court dealt Sun a reduced sentence of three years' imprisonment and an over-100,000 yuan fine on the grounds that the illegally collected funds were only used for company development and were not abused.

After the verdict was passed, Sun told a reporter from Guangdong-based *South Metropolitan Daily* on Saturday that he would not appeal the case to a higher court because he felt the judgment was a "social development" for him and he could use the time for self-examination. "I will grow into a more mature person," Sun said in another interview with that paper on Tuesday. "Plus, this incident should promote better understanding between banks and private companies and make it easier to get financing."

The Xushui County government has allocated 7 million yuan to pay back some of the farmers' money, though many locals have expressed confidence Sun would return the money they lent to him.

When asked by a *Beijing Youth Daily* reporter on Monday how Dawu Group would repay the money, and if the school would be closed, Sun responded, "No. Since I am out of jail for the time being, I can find new ways to get financing, such as seeking funds from banks, borrowing from employees or transferring some shares to company employees."

According to Liu Ping, Dawu Group general manager, this case is being used as precedent for dangerous attacks on private entrepreneurs. He told the Guangdong-based *21st Century Economic Herald* that some local governments in Shanxi, Shaanxi and Guizhou provinces are lining up to punish some other private entrepreneurs on the same grounds that ended up putting Sun in jail.

Passage of the court's sentence has only added fuel to already heated debate about Sun's case in business and legal circles and online. Economist Mao Yushi told the press on September 25, "Some of the related laws and regulations were drawn up years ago and need to be amended or dropped because they conflict with the principles of a market economy. As a result, someone can break these laws without actually committing a crime or bad deed. Sun's actions are technically 'illegal' but are actually good deeds."

Xinjiang Hops Chairman Disappears

New name added to 'China Richlist' hall of shame?

By Shan Jinliang

On Tuesday, Xinjiang Hops Corp. released a statement on Tuesday that its chairman, Aikelamu Aishayoufu, could not be reached. The company's share value has fallen steadily since the announcement.

Two weeks before, Aikelamu had turned up as No. 22 on the list of China's most wealthy equity capitalists issued by British expert Rupert Hoogewerf and *Euromoney* magazine on October 22. Analysts for the Guangdong-based *New Express* and other domestic newspapers have speculated that he took his money and ran and compared him to other people ranked on the rich list, such as 1980's move star

Liu Xiaoqing, who have ended up convicted and punished for financial misdealing.

The company's statement said that Aikelamu had been missing for a few days and Vice Chairman Yao Rongjiang had assumed his duties. Internal investigations conducted by the company uncovered over 1.7 billion yuan of illegally received loans. According to a report in Guangzhou-based *South Metropolitan Daily* on Tuesday, "Xinjiang Hops, with only 600 million yuan in net assets, is facing 1.46 billion yuan of debts, meaning its survival is definitely at risk."

The Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region Government announced in an official statement Wednesday that Ai-

kelamu's departure was a personal issue and had nothing to do with the company's regular performance.

That statement continued that the Urumqi office under the China Securities Regulatory Committee had sent a team to investigate the company, which would continue normal operations in order to not harm the interests of its financial partners, raw materials supporters and other related parties.

According to a press release made by Xinjiang Hops in 1997, Aikelamu established Xinjiang Hengyu Development Corporation and became its chairman, and since Xinjiang Hengyu was the major shareholder of Xinjiang Hops,



Aikelamu Aishayoufu Photo by Bqf

Aikelamu indirectly held a controlling 24.6 percent stake in Xinjiang Hops.

Spanish Dia Discount Retail Chain Sets Up Shops in Capital

By Tony Shaw

The Spanish discount chain Dia, a subsidiary of French retail giant Carrefour, opened its first two shops in Beijing in Haidian District last Thursday. The company's plans call for opening two stores a week over the next five years.

The stores, which mainly sell food and daily use goods, are located in the Yongtai and Jin'gouhe communities. Their opening, under Dia's slogan of "20 percent lower than the general market price" drew around 500 shoppers their first day of operation, although later many consumers complained that most of the goods on offer were very similar to those at oth-

er local supermarkets.

The two stores and future outlets will be overseen by Dia Shoulian, the joint venture set up by Beijing Shoulian Group and Dia. Qu Yongjie, regional manager for the company's development department, told the press last week that all Dia stores in Beijing would be located in residential neighborhoods. Only 30 percent of the products sold in the local stores carry the Dia brand, although that percentage is expected to rise to 50 percent soon, he added.

The Beijing company said it planned to open 320 Dia stores in the capital over the next five years.

American E-business Company Promotes Cooperation

By Sun Ming

US-based e-business firm InnoCentive held a conference with the Chinese Academy of Sciences at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing Wednesday to formalize their partnership and officially introduce the company and its goals to the Chinese scientific community.

Darren J. Carroll, the company's president and CEO, said at the conference, "InnoCentive recognizes that China is a scientific powerhouse and this landmark conference, similar to the conferences we have held in Russia, will bring together US and international scientific colleagues to discuss the latest global trends in biology, chemistry and pharmaceutical research and development."

InnoCentive is an online forum that allows leading scientists and science-based companies from around the world to collaborate as a global community to facilitate the discovery of innovative solutions to complex challenges.

"The Chinese Academy of Science's large and fast-growing community of scientists, students and professors makes it the ideal partner for InnoCentive," Carroll added.

Cadillacs to Cruise out of Shanghai

European luxury sedans, watch out – Cadillacs are coming to China.

General Motors Corp. announced Tuesday that it planned to boost its manufacturing capacity in Shanghai by 50 percent to build Cadillacs, expanding its push into the luxury end of the world's fastest growing auto market.

GM, which already markets Buicks and Chevrolets in this country, said it would sell both imported and domestically assembled Cadillacs. Building Cadillacs inside China would allow customers to avoid paying high import duties.

GM, which claims an 8.2 percent share of China's vehicle market, has announced that its sales by late September had already surpassed the total for last year, with 267,395 cars sold.

Cadillacs will be assembled alongside Buicks at GM's Shanghai plant, which will hike capacity to 300,000 vehicles by the end of 2005, the company has stated. GM's joint venture plant with Shanghai Automotive Industry Corp and Wuling Automotive in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region is to increase its annual capacity by 150,000 vehicles to 336,000 by 2006.

(Shanghai Daily)

TCL, Thomson Alliance Trumps Sony for TV Top Spot

Chinese company TCL teamed up with French company Thomson Tuesday in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province to form the world's largest television production joint venture.

The TCL-Thomson venture will produce 18 million television sets annually, replacing Sony as the world's leading television maker in terms of volume, said Li Dongsheng, chairman of TCL International and Charles Dehelly, Thomson CEO, at a ceremony for the signing of the deal in Guangzhou on Tuesday.

The two companies plan to combine their TV and DVD businesses, according to the cooperation memorandum. Total assets of the joint venture will amount to 450 million euros, with TCL International holding a 67 percent stake and Thomson a 33 percent stake in the enterprise.

According to the memo, TCL, China's top TV and mobile phone producer, will contribute all its TV and DVD related factories, research and development institutions and its complete sales network in the Chinese mainland, Vietnam and Germany to the joint venture. Meanwhile, Thomson will provide its corresponding facilities and agencies in Mexico, Poland and Thailand.

TCL-Thomson plans to promote products under the brand of TCL in Asia and other new markets while selling Thomson and RCA-brand products in the European and North American markets.

(Xinhua)

Sohu Completes Uplink with Walt Disney

Chinese Internet portal Sohu.com linked with the online arm of the giant Walt Disney entertainment conglomerate for the development of mobile value-added services last Saturday.

According to the agreement signed in Beijing, the first phase of cooperation between the two companies includes mutual development of mobile messaging services and the construction and operation of Walt Disney's Chinese website.

"This is the most important cooperation we have had in Internet content and a great step towards the development of the content on our websites," said Charles Zhang, chairman and CEO of Sohu, which is listed on the US Nasdaq stock market.

Sohu will act as Walt Disney's only online partner in China and build and operate the latter's Chinese website.

Walt Disney will also authorize Sohu to provide 400 black and white photographs and more than 4,500 color images of Disney cartoon characters like Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck on Sohu's mobile message channel.

(Xinhua)

Wal-Mart Marches Into Southeast China

By David Huang

Wal-Mart Stores, the world's largest retailer, is expected to set up its first Sam's Club in Guiyang, capital of Guizhou Province, in southwest China next year.

Last week, Wal-Mart China and Guiyang New Century Construction Development Company signed a cooperation agreement to build the store, which will be located in the underground shopping center beneath People's Square in the heart of the city.

According to Shi Yi, director of GNCCD's Finance Department, the Guiyang Sam's Club will be the 32nd or 33rd outlet Wal-Mart has opened in the Chinese mainland since the multinational entered the market through the city of Shenzhen in 1996. The huge new shopping store should be ready to open to customers in mid-2004.

Cigarette Makers Merging

Shanghai Tobacco (Group) Corp, the maker of several top-selling domestic cigarette brands including Chung-hwa, Double Happiness, Peony and Panda, announced Wednesday that it had taken over the Beijing Cigarette Factory.

The government-ordered move reflects the central government's decision to consolidate the nation's tobacco business in the face of increased competition from foreign giants and with the intention of forging a stronger presence in the global market.

China is the world's biggest maker and consumer of cigarettes.

The Beijing factory has an annual production capacity of 162,000 crates of cigarettes, while STC's ca-

capacity is 1.3 million crates annually.

"Next year we will conduct more consolidation," said Dong Haolin, president of Shanghai Tobacco, "and many domestic tobacco producers expect to be merged with us."

Since 2001, tariffs on foreign cigarettes have dropped from 65 percent to 25 percent as part of China's commitments to the World Trade Organization.

"The industry is still full of smaller and less competitive players. To compete with foreign counterparts, we need to create more powerful enterprises and present concentrated brands on the market," said an official surnamed Jiang with the State Tobacco Monopoly Administration.

(Shanghai Daily)

UN OKs Anti-Corruption Treaty

United Nations, October 31 (AP) - The UN General Assembly adopted a landmark anti-corruption treaty on Friday requiring politicians to disclose their campaign finances and countries to return tainted assets to the nation they were stolen from.

The treaty, which the 191-nation body adopted by consensus, spells out measures to prevent corruption in the public and private sectors and requires governments to cooperate in the investigations and prosecutions of offenders.

"The adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption sends a clear message that the international community is determined to prevent and control corruption," Secretary-General Kofi Annan said.

"And it reaffirms the importance of core values, such as honesty, respect for the rule of law, accountability and transparency, in promoting development and making the world a better place for all."

It complements another landmark treaty, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which entered into force on September 29 and requires ratifying countries to cooperate with each other in combatting money laundering, orga-

nized crime and human trafficking.

The new corruption treaty commits governments to require politicians and parties to declare openly how they finance their election campaigns.

But the biggest breakthrough is the provision requiring parties to return assets obtained through corruption to the country from where they were stolen.

As a result, "corrupt officials will in the future find fewer ways to hide their illicit gains," Annan said.

US Ambassador John Negroponte told the General Assembly the treaty was "a milestone achievement in the global effort to ensure transparency, fairness, and justice in public affairs."

Philippines diplomat Victor Garcia said his country was among those damaged by corruption among high-level officials and their high-powered cohorts in the private sector.

"Like the war against terrorism, this war against corruption must have the widest possible international consensus," he said.

Rwanda's UN Ambassador Stanislas Kamanzi, speaking on behalf of African nations, said the treaty will help prevent armed conflict and fight terrorists, who often use corrupt funds.

Analysts' Take:

The convention impels us to study domestic legal mechanisms for tracing corrupt fugitives and retrieving stolen assets in accordance with the treaty, which will help enhance the efficiency of punishing corrupt criminals.

The treaty also highlighted comprehensive prevention strategies against corruption, in addition to resolute crack-down efforts. The treaty calls on member governments to establish special organs to target corruption, to insist on transparency in public administration, and to strengthen management of civil servants and non-elected government officials with fixed rules of fairness, honesty and accountability.

It is also notable that the treaty encourages the public to take part in the anti-corruption campaign and emphasizes the role of the judiciary, which is key to the fight against corruption. These strategies should be embraced by China's anti-corruption practices. It would also be a good addition to China's judicial practices.

- **Chen Zhengyun, jurist with the Supreme People's Procuratorate**

Corrupt Chinese officials have many different ways to escape to foreign countries. The most common ones are using

official visits as camouflage, forging a passport and visa and even hiding in a van or boat to slip out of the country. There are also many ways of getting the money out of the country such as disguising it as a foreign investment or a foreign trade contract in the name of the government.

Now the finance industry is globally and electronically developed, illicit funds can also be easily transferred to a foreign account through the Internet.

There are many reasons why the escaped corrupt officials cannot be extradited back to China to stand trial, such as the different legislation and legal systems between nations as well as the fees involved in the extradition. There also needs to be an extradition treaty between the two nations involved.

Adapting to international practices on anti-corruption legislation is not a compromise or submission by China but the result of the urgent need to develop international cooperation to combat corruption among Chinese officials. To make the most of the United Nations' Anti-Corruption Treaty, we have to improve our criminal procedure system and establish a system that makes extradition easier.

- **Lu Jianping, professor of Law School, Renmin University**

Judge Clears WorldCom's Exit From Bankruptcy

November 2 (Washington Post) - A federal bankruptcy judge approved WorldCom Inc.'s reorganization plan yesterday, a breakthrough for a telecommunications company that has been controlled by its creditors and beset by financial scandal for more than a year.

The decision by Judge Arthur J. Gonzalez in New York allows the nation's second-largest long-distance company to keep virtually all its assets while eliminating more than \$35 billion in debt.

WorldCom is on track to exit bankruptcy at a time when the telecommunications industry is struggling with huge competitive pressures. Local and long-distance companies are invading each other's turf while the powerful cable industry is in the early stages of offering telephone service over its lines.

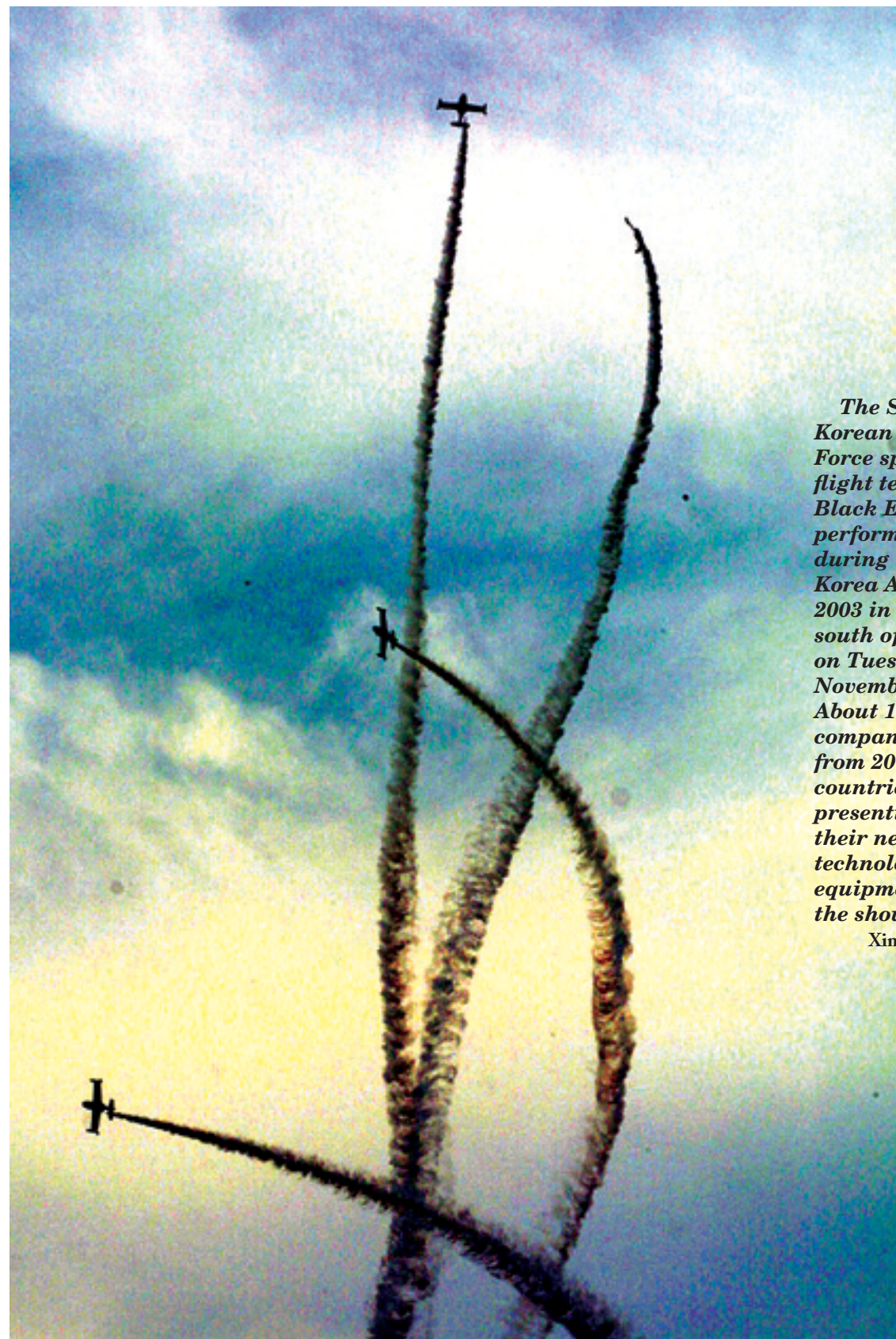
Consumers are turning to cell phones and even the Internet to make phone calls. The results have been lower prices for consumers and declining revenue for companies. WorldCom's sales have fallen 30 percent in less than two years.

The Ashburn-based company filed for protection from its creditors in July 2002, just weeks after revealing that a group of its executives had conspired to hide billions of dollars in losses. The company's financial troubles became a symbol not only of the collapse of the speculative high-tech bubble in the 1990s, but also of the greed and corporate malfeasance that is synonymous with the time.

WorldCom's current leadership hopes that by completing the bankruptcy process, the focus will shift from the company's tarnished past to its efforts to win customers in a highly competitive industry. It is already doing business informally as MCI, the name of its better-known long-distance subsidiary. The name change will soon be official.

Under the reorganization plan, WorldCom's debt will be reduced from \$41 billion to \$5.8 billion. While in bankruptcy, it has been freed from making interest payments, allowing it to hoard cash. When WorldCom entered bankruptcy, it had about \$200 million in cash on hand. Now it has \$5.3 billion.

WorldCom is still the nation's second-largest long-distance company, with more than 20 million customers. But there have been major internal changes. In response to its accounting problems and criticism of its corporate governance, WorldCom replaced all of its directors.



The South Korean Air Force special flight team, the Black Eagles, performs during the Korea Air Show 2003 in Busan, south of Seoul on Tuesday, November 4. About 180 companies from 20 countries are presenting their newest technology and equipment at the show.

Xinhua Photo

Microsoft Targets Net Search, Taking on Google

November 3 (Dow Jones) - Microsoft is determined to become a big player in Internet searches, betting that internally developed technology can close the gap with Google Inc., which operates the most-popular search engine.

The software giant has launched a major development effort, aimed at creating technology to help users find information on the web. Microsoft has recruited a number of search specialists, including Paul Ryan, the former chief technology officer of Overture Services Inc., a search concern bought by Yahoo Inc. this year.

"It is a large investment we are making," said Kirk Koenigs-

bauer, a general manager in Microsoft's MSN division associated with the search effort, who says it was approved by top executives Bill Gates and Steve Ballmer. "People know we are serious about it."

Search engines have become the primary starting point for Internet navigation and electronic commerce, and a big source of advertising revenue. MSN now ranks fourth in the market which is led by fast-growing Google.

The New York Times reported Friday that Microsoft executives in the past two months approached Google to discuss the possibility of a takeover, which Google rejected. The

newspaper cited unidentified sources. The two companies declined to comment on the matter. But other people familiar with the situation said the talks focused primarily on potential technical or business cooperation. Microsoft often meets with influential technology start-ups, sometimes mentioning the possibility of an investment or acquisition while sizing up a smaller company's capabilities.

Google, similarly, routinely speaks with potential partners. In this case, the firm has an interest in whether Microsoft might choose Google's search services as an alternative to Inktoni, a unit of Yahoo that manages searches conducted on MSN.

Analyst's Take:

Google's refusal to join Microsoft rests on the different cultures of the two companies.

The only possible reason for Google to accept Microsoft's advances would be short-term profits. But Google is known for its "anti-Microsoft" attitude.

Google has been a loyal user and supporter of open source code software. Eric Schmidt, chairman and CEO of Google, used to work as CEO of Sun and Novell, and he suffered heavy defeats from Microsoft particularly during his period at Novell. John Doerr, a Google investor, is also a well known

member of the anti-Microsoft group since he provides important help to almost every rival of the IT behemoth, such as Intuit, Netscape and Sun.

Another reason for Google to stay away from Microsoft is the cultural conflict between the two companies. Google has an image of being non-corporate, with a simple, low profile. It has carefully restricted the trend towards over-commercialization and if it joined Microsoft, these values would disappear. Google would then have a simple future, rather like that of Hotmail.

- **Fang Xingdong, chief analyst of China Internet Labs**

New Faces at Yukos

Moscow, November 4 (AP) - Three Americans will have a major role in running Russia's embattled Yukos oil giant after the company named a new management team Tuesday following the resignation of its jailed chief executive.

With US citizens as CEO, chief financial officer and another top post, Yukos may in part be seeking to protect itself as prosecutors investigate it and move forward against former boss Mikhail Khodorkovsky, a case some see as politically motivated.

Khodorkovsky - Russia's richest man, whose arrest on fraud and tax evasion charges sparked a drop in Yukos shares and, in turn, a plunge in the Moscow Stock Market - resigned as CEO on Monday, saying he wants to deflect the blows from his company.



Simon Kukes, new chief executive of oil giant Yukos

Caspian Oil Pipeline Passes Tests

Washington, November 4 (Reuters) - The World Bank Group's oil director said on Tuesday a major Caspian Sea oil project warranted its support and had passed the environmental and social criteria.

The International Financial Corp, the World Bank's private sector arm, on Tuesday approved up to \$310 million in loans for the project, which includes investment in a pipeline that stretches from Azerbaijan's capital Baku, through Tbilisi, Georgia and on to Turkey's Mediterranean port of Ceyhan.

"It is fair to say that these kinds of projects entail some risks but we feel the risks have been mitigated or addressed," Rashad Kaldany, director of the group's oil, gas, mining and chemical department told Reuters.

Citigroup Forks Out for Sears' Business

New York, November 3 (AP) - Citigroup Inc. completed the \$31.8 billion acquisition of Sears Roebuck & Co.'s Credit Card and Financial Products business on Monday, opening the door for the nation's biggest financial services company to start nursing the struggling unit back to health.

New York-based Citigroup said the purchase price included a 10 percent, or \$2.9 billion, premium on Sears private label and bankcard credit card receivables of \$28.6 billion, and \$300 million for other assets, business facilities and employees.

Problems with Sears' credit-card operations have threatened efforts by the company to revitalize its ailing retail business.

GM to Raise Output in China by 50%

Shanghai, November 4 (FT) - General Motors, the world's largest carmaker, has announced a further expansion in China, including an extension of its flagship Shanghai plant and plans to make and import cars bearing the Cadillac brand.

According to the announcement by Rick Wagoner, the chairman and chief executive, now visiting China, GM will lift its capacity in China from just above 500,000 today to around 760,000 by 2006, a 50 per cent increase.

GM is increasing capacity to meet hot demand in the fastest growing car market in the world, and also to prepare for the fully-fledged entry into the market over the next two years of its Japanese rivals, Toyota and Nissan.

Gucci Seeks Replacement for Top Duo

Paris, November 5 (AP) - Gucci Group searched Wednesday for candidates to replace designer Tom Ford and chief executive Domenico De Sole, whose hit partnership turned the company into a fashion powerhouse.

A recruitment panel has been set up to find worthy successors. But industry watchers said the pairing of Ford's innovative designs with De Sole's shrewd business sense would be tough to match.

Masterworks Go for Record Prices at Weekend Auction

By Yu shanshan

Big deals were done last weekend at the 2003 autumn auction of the Sungari International Auction Company at the Asia Hotel. Among the impressive modern Chinese paintings sold were works by Fu Baoshi and Qi Baishi that went for record prices.

Landscapes Inspired by Mao Zedong's Poems by Fu Baoshi (1904-1965) scored the highest price of the day. The work is a book of eight paintings Fu created between 1964 and 1965, all inspired by Mao's poetry, for his friend Wei Zhen, a senior official of Jiangsu Province. Shortly after the work went up for auction last Saturday morning, the bidding shot up from 1 million to 3 million yuan, followed by a short pause and another bidding spasm in when the price shot up by 500,000 yuan increments. In the end, it went for a whopping 19.8 million yuan, including the auction house's 10 percent commission fee.

The excitement of Saturday added atmosphere to the bidding the next day that included sixteen paintings



A panel from Fu Baoshi's masterpiece *Landscapes Inspired by Mao Zedong's Poems*

from Qi Baishi (1864-1957). Despite not being considered promising before the hammer fell, Qi's 1932 work *Eight-Panel Landscape* got the second-highest price.

Before a crowd of nearly 800 people, two bidders, including the person who took home *Landscapes Inspired by Mao Zedong's Poems*, entered a heated battle for the Qi Baishi work. A Hong Kong art dealer bought the painting at the 1998 Guardian International autumn auction for 1.59 million yuan, but on Sunday its final price was 16.61 million yuan, far above pre-auction estimations that it would go for only 1.2 million yuan.

Though ancient paintings dominate the mainland art auction market, experts see great prospects for modern Chinese works. "The sales this past weekend are examples of how tastes have changed over recent years," Zhao Yu, a Sungari consultant, told *Beijing Youth Daily* last Saturday.

Enterprising Villagers Tarnishing Great Wall

By Wang Xiaoxiao

Portions of the Badaling and Mutianyu sections of the Great Wall are not looking so great these days, while more remote sections of the ancient barrier are being harnessed and abused by villagers seeking to cash in.

According to a report in the *Beijing Times* on Sunday, residents of Huanghuacheng county, Huairou District, have for years been exploiting an un-restored stretch of the Great Wall in that area for commercial purposes without official permission.

Along the south side of that "wild" stretch of wall is a sign that reads, "Private orchard, 2 yuan pass-through fee." The enterprising woman, surnamed Wang, who owns the orchard and put up the sign explained that while the wall itself is under national protection, the area around it is individually leased, meaning her little business is on the up-and-up. "There are always lots of foreigners out here and we can get up to hundreds of yuan

from the charges in just one weekend," she was quoted as saying in the *Beijing Times* report.

An iron ladder leans against the wall on its opposite side. Visitors can climb up to get great views of the surrounding mountains, for a fee. According to one local, Ms. Chen, the ladder was built two years ago and no one has complained about its illegal placement since.

The wall and the area around it is full of litter like discarded water bottles, snack wrappers and remnants of exploded firecrackers.

At the base of the hill on which the wall stands there is a sign placed by the local government that reads, "The Great Wall belongs to the nation. Any form of commercial activity related to the wall is strictly forbidden, and any construction that effects the scenery around the wall is prohibited." Apparently, it will take more than signs to slow the exploitation of this and other stretches of China's most famous landmark.



Xinhua Photo

Space Hero Duets with Jackie Chan

By Sun Ming

Yang Liwei, China's celebrated first astronaut, was the star at a gathering held in his honor at Hong Kong Stadium on Saturday. "I've been very excited since I came here yesterday. My enthusiastic Hong Kong comrades have made my heart beat faster than when I was in the spacecraft," he told the huge crowd of nearly 40,000 that turned out for the event.

The stadium in Causeway Bay was a sea of red flags and flowers, and the audience enjoyed such performances as a singing duet by Yang, decked out in a dark blue spacesuit, and Hong Kong movie superstar Jackie Chan.

Blaze Consumes Building, Kills 20

By Sun Ming

The bodies of 20 firemen who died fighting a fire that led a building in Hengyang city, Hunan Province, to collapse early Monday morning have been recovered. The tragic blaze took the lives of more fire fighters than any such incident in over 50 years.

According to officials responsible for the fire fighting team, the blaze broke out in the basement of an eight-story building in Zhuhui District at 5 am that day, forcing more than 400 residents to quickly evacuate. No one was immediately injured.

However, as the fire raged, it brought down parts of the building at around 8 am. Firemen Zhang Xiaocheng and Zeng Hui were killed immediately, while many other

rescue workers and four reporters from local newspapers were buried in the rubble.

Another fire fighter, Jiang Chunmao, 20, who had been buried in the ruins of the building for 27 hours, was found on Tuesday when rescue workers heard his muffled calls for help.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation, but according to some of the building's residents, it may have been caused by some people living in the building.

"They make a living selling dried food, and dry things like fish, shrimp and jujubes over fire in the building's basement, even though building management told them not to," the Hunan-based paper *Dangdai Business News* quoted a witness as saying on Tuesday.



Li Ling, a photographer for the Hengyang Evening News, was one of four local reporters injured when they were caught under the collapsing building. Photo by Photocom

Police Reveal Details of Dramatic Kidnapping

By Dong Nan

This Tuesday, Chaoyang police revealed detailed information about a kidnapping case cracked at a site along the East Fourth Ring Road on October 31.

On October 28, a woman called the Shibalidian police station to report that her husband, surnamed Huang, had been kidnapped and was being held for a ransom of 300,000 yuan. The Shibalidian and Chaoyang police immediately organized a task force to address the incident. They then told Huang's wife to pretend to borrow money from acquaintances to cover the demand and tell no one she had contacted the police.

The kidnappers called her again the following two days, demanding she deliver the money. They gave her directions to a set meeting site where the exchange of the money for the man was set for October 31.

At noon on that fateful day, Huang's wife and policeman Zhao Wei, pretending to be her brother, arrived as instructed at the Xiaowuji bus station in Shibalidian. Ten minutes later, a yellow car pulled up to the curb in front of them. The hostage was sitting in the backseat of the car, surrounded by three kidnappers.

Huang's wife gave the criminals the money and they demanded she and her "brother" follow their car. After the car had only gone 10 meters, an undercover police detective swerved his car over to stop the kidnappers. Another group of police officers led by Cai Yu,

deputy head of the Chaoyang detective department, approached the vehicle.

The kidnappers then burst from the car and tried to escape. Two were captured immediately, while the third tried to ignite five bottles of gasoline that had been tied to Huang, Cai and another detective, Sun Haidong, jumped the last kidnapper, while other officers rushed to Huang and put out the flame before the gasoline exploded.

According to the Chaoyang police, the three kidnappers, Hao Ziqin, Zhang Zhigang and Lian Yonggui, are all natives of Beijing and have criminal records. They confessed that they planned to burn Huang to death as soon as they got money.

On the evening of November 1, Zhang Shangli, one of the kidnapper's accomplices, turned himself in to the police. Two other suspects connected to the case are still at large.



A dazed Huang, gas bottles still tied to his body, is led from the crime scene by police after his daring rescue. Photo by Wang Wei

Community Comment

Cold Comfort

By Les Charlton

Sniff all you like at the failure of scientists the world over to produce, after more than a century of bloodhound tenacity, cocktail vaccines against the garden-variety cold and influenza. They don't let criticism get up their noses because few people have any idea what they are up against.

For example, it was long thought that only single viruses give you a cold or flu. Over recent years, science has discovered that there are at least 100, and the number is still climbing. Thus immediate cure-alls are as elusive as the proverbial needle in a haystack.

If you get a cold – which you almost certainly will now that another cruel Beijing winter is just around the corner – the most you can hope for is a TCM (traditional Chinese medicine) or western-style tablet or decongestant to relieve the discomfort of a runny or blocked nose, sneezing, loss of appetite, bad headaches and a sore throat.

Acupuncture and aromatherapy can also be effective for some patients. The treatments may not totally rid you of the cold, but you will almost certainly feel less "clogged up" and listless.

In England, the main center for flu research was for decades the Common Cold Research Unit (CCRU) in Salisbury, Wiltshire. The world's best-known facility of its kind, it was closed a few years ago and its staff and facilities dispersed to numerous regional units.

Over the years, more than 20,000 people trekked to the CCRU and allowed themselves to be infected with a virus that gave them a streaming cold and all its glorious side effects. The volunteers, aged between 18 and 50, stayed at the unit for 10 days and had their every symptom carefully monitored in relation to whatever antidote they were given. Some got over their colds quite quickly, while others felt lousy throughout almost all their stay.

Volunteers ranged from students to honeymoon couples, plus a woman who defied all attempts, and selfless cooperation on her part, to pick up even a sniffle. She had a natural immunity that could not be breached, though it was never discovered why.

Such people often became as intrigued as the virologists as to why women catch colds more than men, or what makes the nose so suitable a breeding ground for viruses. And why was it that only 50 percent of the volunteers who had living viruses squirted into their nostrils caught colds of widely varying intensity and duration?

The search for clues and solutions to such contradictions continue all over the world, but no virologist has yet to scream "Eureka!" Whoever ultimately does will almost certainly be in line for a Nobel Prize for Medicine.

Meanwhile, in China as elsewhere, people continue to spend huge amounts of money on concoctions, inhalants, sprays and wonder pills. Old folk often resort to home-spun treatments handed down by their parents – chewing raw onions, drinking heated wines mixed with who knows what, and, in Beijing, wintry swims in local lakes and rivers once such hardy folk can break through the ice. Some of them swear they never suffer from colds or flu, though the latter and its complications do kill around 8,000 local citizens each year.

The author is a British journalist and freelance writer.

Scepticism Greets Rich Lists

By Dong Nan / Mao Yu

On October 16, Rupert Hoogewerf, former China researcher for *Forbes* released his rival 2003 "rich list" of the biggest cheeses in China. Two weeks later, *Forbes* released its version, the fifth China rich list it has compiled since 1999. The list has caused controversy in China, with many of its leading figures unhappy at having their wealth revealed in public.

But what do Chinese people think about these lists? Does anyone care about them or is it all just media hype? *Beijing Youth Daily* conducted a survey in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou among 600 people in order to find out.

What do you think of the rich lists?

Only 35.9% said they paid attention to the rich lists. The rest didn't care.

It seems that Guangzhou people are particularly underwhelmed by the list: just 8.4% of Guangzhou people expressed any interest, far less than in the other two cities.

A possible explanation for this nationwide yawn might be that only 34.7% believe the lists are authoritative.

More than 70% think the lists can provide some reference for the condition of the richer classes in China. About one half of people believe that such lists can encourage entrepreneurial spirit, but 22.8% of people think they are completely meaningless.

"I remember when *Forbes* released the China rich list in 1999 for the first time. At that time, I was a college student and read it carefully. But I am not as enthusiastic now. I think these lists and the rich people in them have nothing to do with people's daily lives," says Li, a 25-year-old government clerk.

37.6% of people express that even if they were rich enough, they would not like to be published on those kinds of lists. 31.7% of the people say they would like their names be published.

Regarding public exposure, it seems Shanghai people are most guarded about revealing their wealth. 60.8% of Shanghai people said they would not like to be on the list, while 51.6% of Guangzhou people said they would have no problem with being named, assuming they had enough money of course.

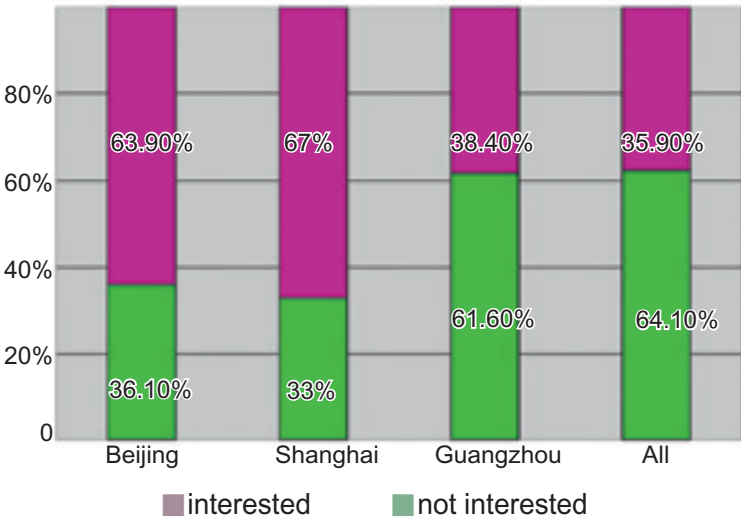
Su Zhigang, chairman of



Russell Flannery, Forbes Shanghai bureau chief at the release ceremony for the rich list

Photo by Photocom

Are you interested in the rich lists?



Changlong Group, who comes in at No. 61 on Hoogewerf's list told the media he had asked Hoogewerf many times not to put him on the rich list. But Hoogewerf always responded that it was not up to him.

Su said that he did not want such publicity and hoped simply to work in peace.

"Traditionally, Chinese people do not like to display how rich they are, but Guangzhou people might be more open-minded about that," says Liu Peng, a 30-year-old Guangzhou businessmen. "Of course, I would like to be listed. It is a kind of honor and a good chance to improve your fame both domestically and abroad."

What do you know about rich people?

It seems most people don't know too much about the lives of the country's wealthiest citizens. 68.8% of people had only heard of 10 to 20 of the names on the two lists; only 1.3% knew more than half of the names.

Ding Lei, CEO of Netease.com, was named the richest man in China by both lists.

"Of course I know Ding Lei and Zhang Chaoyang (CEO of sohu.com), but I don't know much about any of the others," says Ding Qin, a 20-year-old nurse.

"I think there are a lot of rich people in the IT and real estate industries," says Wang Li, a 34-year-old clerk, "but their fortunes rise and fall pretty quickly."

In fact, the *Forbes* rich list includes only five people from the IT industry but 35 from real estate.

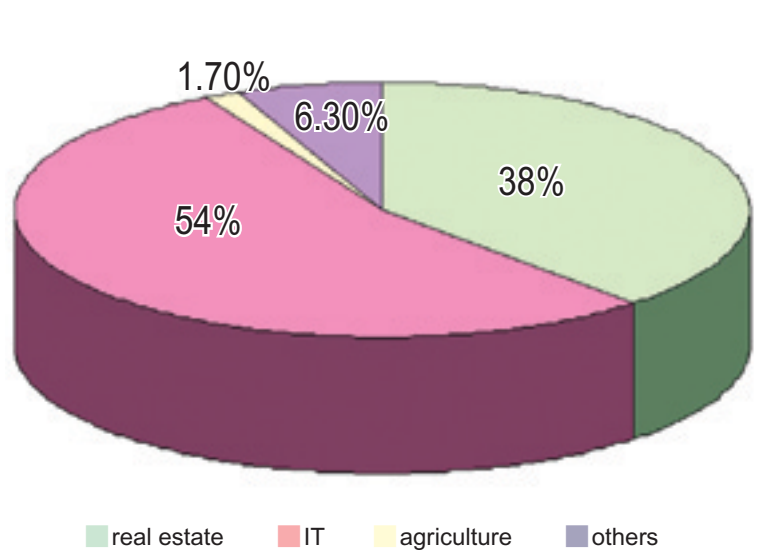
Only 5.6% of people had heard of the two females on Hoogewerf's rich list — Chen Lihua, president of Fu Wah International and Zhang Yin, president of America Chung Nam.

Most people surveyed (63.3%) believed there were plenty of rich people who should be on the list but weren't named. 85.3% of Shanghai people share this opinion, much larger than in the other two cities.

Authoritative?

"It's all nonsense," said Ding Lei after finding out he topped Hoogewerf's rich list. Nevertheless, he sent his representative, Sun Deli to participate in the release ceremony for the *Forbes* rich list, which also had him at No. 1. Sun said that *Forbes* greatly encouraged Chinese busi-

nessmen to create their own enterprises.



nessmen to create their own enterprises.

Beijing Youth Daily's survey found that 37.7% of people think lists made by national statistic organizations are more reliable. Of the two rich lists, 33.3% trusted *Forbes*, while only 3.7% thought Hoogewerf is capable of compiling an accurate list. "Hoogewerf is so young, how can he know the complicated situation in China?" said a web surfer quoted on sina.com.

However, the two lists are astonishingly alike. The top four people are the same in both lists, and only one person is different in the lists' top 10.

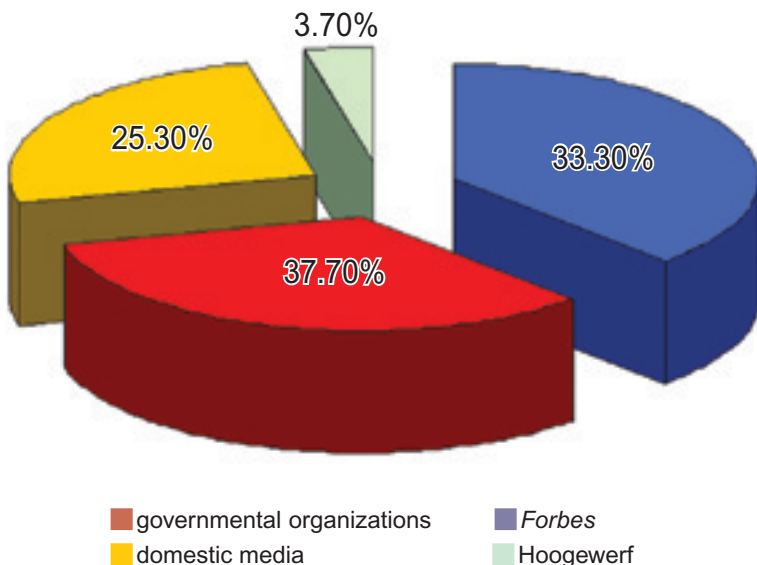
"It doesn't show the reliability of the lists, just that they adopt similar methods," remarks

sina.com. "In fact, due to the lack of transparency of the Chinese tax and finance systems, it is impossible for them to compile a reliable rich list."

"Due to the different accounting and tax systems, I don't believe these foreign statistics organizations can grasp the situation of Chinese private corporations well enough to make such lists. I think local statistics organizations can do the job better," says Xia Lanlan, a 26-year-old accountant.

"I think the lists are just commercial propaganda," says Huang, a 32-year-old clerk. "Neither *Forbes* nor Hoogewerf have the ability to make a rich list in a country of 1.3 billion. Only the government can do that."

Whose version do you trust?



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The court in Xindu District, Chengdu

Photo by Zeng Pengyu

On June 21 this year, Li Siyi, the daughter of a heroin-addicted mother, was found alone in an apartment in Chengdu having starved to death. Her mother, Li Guifang, 39, had been caught stealing and police had sent her to the Compulsory Drug Quitting Center of Chengdu Public Security Bureau for 17 days. However, even though Li told the police about her daughter, they failed to inform her neighbors or relatives so the child was left to starve.

The death of Li Siyi soon became a topic of controversy in China and was hotly debated in the nation's chatroom. Most people were angry and disappointed, and many accused the police of being abusers of authority who care little for the people they are supposed to be protecting.

On July 1st, Wang Xin, the former deputy director of Chengjiao Police Station and Huang Xiaobing, Wang's subordinate, were arrested.

Beijing Today covered the event on July 9.

Police on Trial

By Sun Ming

A court hearing in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province, attracted nationwide attention last Thursday. The defendants were two policemen, charged with negligence in the case of the death of a three-year-old girl.

Police forgot the Child

In the afternoon of June 4 this year, Li Guifang left her daughter at home and went to the nearby Jintang County to steal in order to get money to buy drugs. After being captured by Huang Xiaobing, Li Guifang confessed her crime.

After a routine examination, Li was found to be a drug taker and she was immediately sent to the Compulsory Drug Quitting Center of Chengdu Public Security Bureau.

"I didn't know that Li Guifang had a three-year-old daughter at home alone until she told me on our way to the drug quitting center at about 10 pm that day," said the first defendant Wang Xin in the court. "If I had known earlier, I would have taken action."

However, Wang's testimony contradicted that of both Li and Huang Xiaobing. Huang said in court that he'd told Wang about Li's daughter in the afternoon that day.

According to Wang's testimony, on the way to the compulsory drug quitting center, he asked a colleague, Lu Xiaohui, to call Li's elder sister Li Defang and tell her to get the little girl. Lu called but didn't get through so Wang asked him to call Tuanjiecun Police Station, which is in charge of the area where Li Guifang lived.

"We asked them to inform Li's sister at once and they promised they would. Li appreciated our efforts very much and then calmed down," said Wang in the court.

However, it was not until the evening of June 21, when Li Guifang's neighbor smelled a terrible odor and called police, that the incident was brought to light. When police officers broke through the door and entered the house, they found the dead child in the bedroom.

Li's testimony

Li Guifang didn't attend the hearing so her testimony was read out by the public prosecutor.

According to Li's testimony, she told Wang about her child before they left Chengjiao Police Station for the drug quitting center.

"I got down on my knees and pleaded with Wang to allow me to return home to release my daughter to my relatives before being taken to the detention center. But he didn't pay any attention to me at all. A policeman pushed me into the car and told me they would send me to a compulsory drug quitting center," Li's testimony reads. When the police car passed through Qingbaijiang District where Li Gui-

fang lived, she began to cry and shouted at them to let her see her daughter. She says it was then that Wang decided to call Lu Xiaohui and get him to call Li's elder sister.

After he failed to get through to Li's sister, Lu called Tuanjiecun Police station. According to the public prosecutor, Mu Yu, a student policeman having his internship at the station, called Li Defang several times but no one answered the phone. Mu did not report this to the police station management staff or keep any phone call record. The matter was forgotten.

Mu Yu, the student policeman, was later expelled from his study program after the tragedy came to light.

Different attitudes in court

"It was my duty to take Li Guifang to the compulsory drug quitting center, not to take care of her family," said Wang in court. "I had already called Tuanjiecun Police Station and asked them to inform her relatives. That's all that I can do. You know, I also care about the little girl. She was innocent," said Wang.

Wang didn't think it was necessary for him to call the Tuanjiecun Police Station the second day to confirm whether they had contacted Li's relatives.

In court, the public prosecutor suggested that it wasn't an excessive demand for Li to ask to go home to make sure her daughter was okay before being taken to the drug center. Wang disagreed. "As far as I know, drug takers should be taken to the quitting center as soon as possible." Wang denied that Li had begged him to let her go home and release her daughter.

During the hearing on Thursday last week, Wang interrupted the public prosecutor over ten times. But Huang Xiaobing, the second defendant in the case, said no more than 10 sentences during the hearing. He hung his head and frequently wept.

Huang admitted it was his fault that he didn't deliver a notice about Li's incarceration to her relatives. Otherwise Li Siyi would have

been found in time.

According to the Procedures for Compulsory Drug Addiction Rehabilitation issued by the State Council on 1995, drug takers must be rehabilitated by attending quitting centers. The law also stipulates that the addict's family, employer and local police station must be notified within three days of their being sent to such a center. However, these regulations were ignored by the policemen involved in this case.

When asked about the indictment read out by the public prosecutor, Huang responded, "I was a common policeman who just fulfilled the order of my leader."

"Unlike Wang, Huang didn't apply for release pending trial," Niu Jianguo, Huang's lawyer told *Beijing Youth Daily* after the hearing. "He's said he wants to stay in detention to atone for his crime."

Surprising suggestion

To the surprise of the court, Wang's lawyer Yang Dahua raised the possibility that the little girl was already dead when her mother left to go and steal. "When Li Siyi was found, she had been dead over 10 days, which means there is a possibility that she died before June 4."

However, even Huang's lawyer Niu Jianguo thought this was unlikely. "If Li killed her own daughter, why would she have cried and shouted to go and release her?"

When the public prosecutor mentioned Li's distressed pleas to go and get her daughter, Wang's lawyer said he didn't believe a word of Li's testimony. "Li has a long history of taking drugs and she doesn't even know who her daughter's father is. It's normal for these kinds of people to lie."

After the hearing, the public prosecutor told *Xinmin Weekly*, a local magazine in Shanghai, that the lawsuit against Wang and Huang was just the first step. Other policemen from Tuanjiecun Police Station and Chengjiao Police Station including Lu Xiaohui and Mu Yu are still being investigated.

Kidnap Gang Uncovered

By Chen Si

More than 10 female job seekers in Shenzhen have disappeared in recent months. It is feared they have fallen prey to a gang of kidnappers.

From October 21 to 24, ten parents called Guangzhou-based *Yangcheng Evening News* to report their daughters had disappeared. All the girls had gone to seek jobs through an employment agency called Senxinyuan in Shenzhen. The authorities have suggested gangs pretending to provide jobs and then kidnapping and selling women may be the culprits.

The women were all young and attractive, aged between 18 and 24, and come from Sichuan, Hubei, Jiangxi, Guangdong and Guizhou provinces. They all disappeared at between 11 and 12 am, after which their cell phones were switched off.

Shenzhen and Hong Kong police are now investigating the case. A suspect has already been arrested. According to a report in Guangzhou newspaper *Xinkuaibao* on October 23, the suspect, named Ma Yong, has confessed to kidnapping ten women since May 26. However, he is only in charge of a small district, and it is believed his supervisor is in charge of a larger network kidnapping women and bringing them to Hong Kong to be sold into prostitution.

Beautiful girls disappear

A Mr. Chen told *Yangcheng Evening News* on October 22 that he received a phone call from his daughter Xiaofang, 17, one month after she left home on July 22. The phone call was from Taiwan, and the daughter asked the father not to try and find the people who had taken her there. "You can't touch them," she said.

One day after Mr. Chen's report, six other parents called *Yangcheng Evening News* saying their daughters had disappeared.

Yaoyao (pseudonym), 20, had worked in Shenzhen for three years. She went to Senxinyuan on September 8 to look for a job. "She sent a message by mobile phone to her boyfriend at 11 o'clock that day, saying she would go back home for lunch, but she never came back. Every time we called her, her phone was switched off," said Yaoyao's mother. Yaoyao was tall and beautiful. Miss Nie also disappeared after going to Senxinyuan agency on September 16. When her parents reported her disappearance they heard about other girls who had disappeared in similar circumstances.

There have also been several similar cases earlier this year. A man, surnamed Jin, reported that his girlfriend Zhang Qiuyan, 22, had gone to see some employment agencies in Buji, a district in Shenzhen, to look for a job in March. She went to see a company called "Taifeng Electron Factory", situated near Senxinyuan, which had put up a notice offering employment. Zhang went to apply and never returned.

Zhang Junming's daughter Zhang Ting disappeared on May 26. "I brought my daughter to Senxinyuan at 9 am that day. She told me she would go to work in a factory not far from Buji and I told her not to switch off her cell phone and to contact me if she needed to." Forty minutes later, Zhang was still concerned about his daughter and called her. However, her cell phone was switched off. He hurried back to Senxinyuan, but people refused to help, saying it was "too difficult to look up so many factories". Yang Guanghui lost track of his sister Yang Wenhong in the same way. In despair, he offered a reward of 10,000 yuan to anyone who could help find his sister.

1000 yuan per girl

Huang Tianyu, vice chief of Buji Public Security Bureau in Shenzhen, disclosed on October 25 that they had the suspect Ma Yong in detention and were questioning him. Police caught Ma after being tipped off by Senxinyuan Employment Agency. Ma told the police he was a member of an organization that kidnapped women. He also confessed that he operated by looking for women who came to Senxinyuan seeking work. Since May 26, he had kidnapped 10 women. However, he said he did not know other accomplices in the organization, as it was divided into many teams. He only knew his superior was a man from Hong Kong. Ma said he was supposed to get 1000 yuan for kidnapping a woman. So far, however, he had only received 3,000 yuan.

Senxinyuan agency: we are also the victims

A supervisor from Senxinyuan said the employment agency attaches a great deal of importance to proper procedure in dealing with employment-providing enterprises, such as checking their business licenses.

Mr. Guo from Senxinyuan said the agency was renowned in Longgang District, Shenzhen. This meant there were always people nearby also claiming to offer jobs. The agency tried to clear them away, but failed.

Rao Songhua, general manager of Senxinyuan, first heard of a woman's disappearance on May 26 when he received a call from Zhang Mingjun. After similar cases occurred on September 8 and 16, the agency decided to conduct further investigations into the employment-providing enterprises they were dealing with. On October 20, guards from Senxinyuan told the police about Ma Yong. They said he had been claiming to offer employment and that they found on him the resume of Zhang Ting, Zhang Mingjun's daughter.

Process of the case

Last month, Mr. Zhang from Shantou, a city in Guangdong Province, told *Yangcheng Evening News* about his colleague's husband who worked for a local hospital. A girl of about 15 years old passed him a small piece of paper with her home phone and address written on it while her supervisor wasn't watching. She said she had been kidnapped and brought to Shantou with two other girls and they had been sold into prostitution. The husband called the girl's family at once, and her father came there the next day. The case is still under investigation.

Hong Kong police lend a hand

Hong Kong police have received letters from parents of the kidnapped girls appealing for help. A policeman surnamed Chen said the girls have two ways of getting to Hong Kong: the first way is to use forged certificates and the other is to be smuggled in. So the police will look up the disembarkation record of mainland people and hand out the girls' photos to all police branches in Hong Kong. In the meantime, they will also check case archives and check against girls with criminal records in Hong Kong.

Race Against Time

By Zuo Dawen/Jiang Hao

Greek people aren't about to give up their habit of taking an afternoon nap, not even if the world is watching while they struggle to keep the construction program for the much hyped Athens games on schedule. Reporters from all over the world continually visit the stadiums to check up and report on the progress but in the late afternoons in Athens, the shops and companies are mainly closed. Most people sleep through the afternoon till dusk. The fact there's less than a year to go before the opening of the 2004 Olympic Games doesn't change anything.

But if the Greeks are carrying on as normal, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has been getting anxious. The committee has expressed its concerns and even criticism over the construction speed of the projects several times. Admittedly, two years before the Olympic Games were due to start, many stadiums still existed only on the drawing board. Denis Oswald, president of the IOC Coordination Commission has warned that delays in venue construction will leave ATHOC without enough time to find alternative solutions in time and obviously this could affect the successful progress of the Olympics. Athenians have become used to such criticism, but they seem to have a great ability to put up with it.

Meanwhile reporters from many countries are still visiting the construction sites of the stadiums. On September 24, 2003 our staff reporters arranged for such a visit. We thought it would be an exclusive interview, but it turned out to be a mass press scramble. At 8 am, we were taken to the lobby of ATHOC's office building in a seven-seat Citroen. After over two hours of waiting, we got onto a bigger bus together with reporters from Germany, the US, Romania and other countries. The bus was nearly full. A spokesman from the Information Department of ATHOC who accompanied us politely explained, "We have foreign reporters visiting our construction sites every day. We have to 'escort' them together and the visit each time is to different places." That day we visited two seaside stadiums. One was the Beach Volleyball Court and the other was the Navigation Center. We were suitably impressed.

The beautiful Aegean gives Athens natural advantages. The white stand of the volleyball court opens itself to the blue sea in the form of a fan. In between is the yellow sand and the court. The colors of white, yellow and blue give a strong visual impact. The volleyball court, which can hold 10,000 people, is the largest one in Europe. It's 90% completed and a test match has already been held here successfully. Mr. Pantelis Athanasopoulos, General Secretary of Public Works for the Olympics 2004, feels very proud. "There is nothing more exciting than completing the project on time. The workers here can be proud when they pass by the court in the future."

Now the workers are looking to the remaining 10% of the project. The material used for paving is luxurious -- all marble.

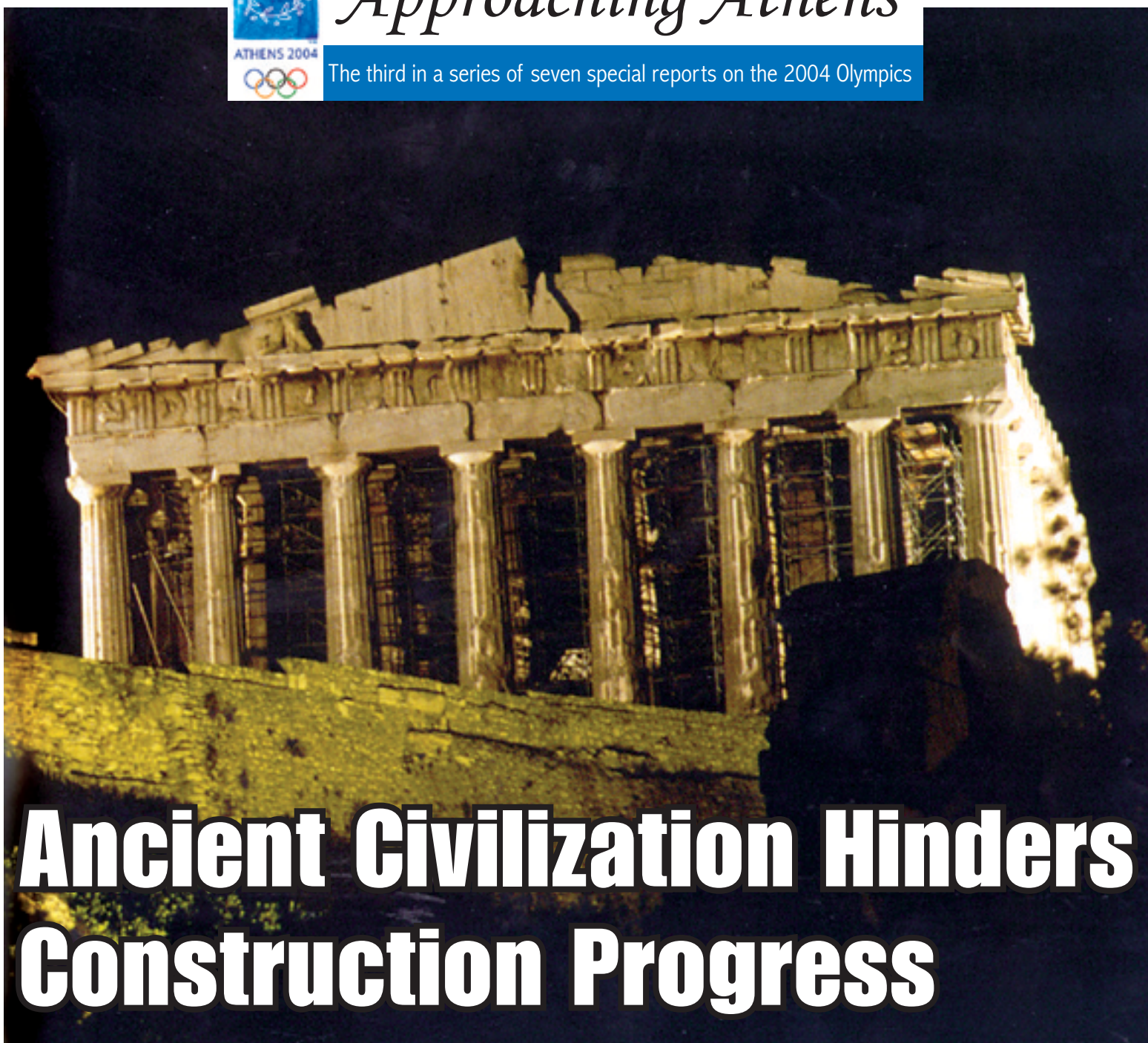
Like many of his countrymen, Pantelis Athanasopoulos is most loquacious. He told us he wanted to speed up the project, but something always got in the way. "At the initial stage of the project, we were continually digging up pottery, tombstones and other unearthed relics. We had to stop until the department concerned came to deal with them."

In other countries, digging up ancient relics might not be such a frequent aggravation for construction workers, but in Greece, precious relics emerge from the ground after just a few shovel loads. During the construction of a subway station near the Acropolis, foundations of the ancient city walls, drainage pipes and other valuable relics were discovered, causing chaos for the project which had to be halted until the Ministry of Culture decided what to do. A new museum was eventually set up on the spot. Olympic construction has been bedeviled by such discoveries.



Approaching Athens

The third in a series of seven special reports on the 2004 Olympics



The Parthenon

Ancient Civilization Hinders Construction Progress

At present, several tough problems are hindering vital construction projects. Apparently the site earmarked for a new parking lot in one of the seaside Olympic zones used to be a famous horse racing track. When news first spread that the ground was to make way for a parking lot, a number of people voiced their strong opposition. But with the construction deadline nearing, the interests of the games won over so construction of the parking lot went ahead.

Fifteen new stadiums will be built for the 2004 Olympics. Each host city of the Olympics is faced with the same problem of utilizing the stadiums after the Games. The Athenians have become very sophisticated in solving this problem. The stadiums for popular sports, such as basketball and weight lifting will be kept. Some stadiums for less popular events such as baseball will be demolished or transformed for other uses. For example, the lower part of the stand in the beach volleyball court will be pulled down so that an outdoor music hall facing the sea can be built.

Tradition, custom and other factors have brought about temporary difficulties in venue construction, but the Athenians are handling these problems in their own way and at their own pace. As one local architect says, "Why do we need to complete the projects ahead of time? If we do so, it means maintaining these stadiums ahead of time. Of course we shall not delay the opening of the Olympic Games." Just as Mr. Constantinos Cartalis, Secretary General of the Ministry of Culture, put it, "Most of the media reports focus on the slow pace of our projects. However, from the end of this year to next February, over ten stadiums will be completed one after another. We are confident in the progress of the projects."

Ten Olympic Zones in Athens

By Ma Ning/Jiang Hao

The Olympic venues are located in 10 zones in and around Athens. They are connected by the railway, highway, subway and tramcar network. Located to the northeast of the city center is the Main Stadium, adjacent to the Information Center and Broadcasting Center, which makes it convenient for reporters to cover the games. Three of the ten facility zones are being built along the sea. The preliminary soccer matches will be farmed out to



The Markopoulo Olympic Equestrian Centre and new Athens Race Track



The Olympic Village



Main Press Centre



Ano Liossia Olympic Centre



Beach Volleyball Court



Handball and Taekwondo Stadium



International Broadcasting Center

four other cities in Greece, but the final is to be held in Karaiskaki Stadium in Athens.

During the construction of venues, Greece has made full use of existing facilities. Half of the 30 stadiums have been built through transformation and expansion of the original stadiums.

Athens 2004 Organizing Committee (ATHOC) showed us a detailed timetable of projects. All the 32 stadiums are on schedule. The International Broadcasting Center, one of the flagship construction projects of the 2004 games, was completed on May 5 this year. The Drug Testing Center has also been finished. The transformation of Karaiskaki Stadium started in April 2003 and will be finished by June next year. The ceiling of the Main Stadium is under construction and will also be completed by June. Seven media villages are being constructed, so that the reporters can be near the stadiums for the events they're covering. So far, 80% of the projects for the Olympic villages have been completed. All the foundation projects and the cement and brick projects for the accommodation areas have been finished. The whole project will be completed and handed over to ATHOC in February 2004.

Transformation Also Seeks Perfection

By Geng Zhensong/Jiang Hao

We're looking at an enormous curved white column from above the TV and Broadcasting Relay Center for the Athens Olympics. Under the column, building machinery hums around the stadium which will be the central venue for the 2004 Athens Olympic Games. This is where the Olympic flame will burn.

For the 2004 Olympics, Greece is not building a brand-new main stadium, unlike most other host countries. ATHOC decided on a transformation of the existing stadium.

The project manager of Aktor Company, which is the contractor for the transformation project told us the stadium was built in 1981 for the purpose of holding the European Track and Field Tournament in Greece. It can hold 75,000 people. When it was first constructed the builders took into consideration its long-term use and the possibility of holding other large-scale sport events in it. So the interior facilities are in surprisingly good condition.

During this transformation, two wing-shaped white sections of a ceiling will be added above the original stadium. The curved white column mentioned at the beginning of this report is the framework of the two wings. At present the installation of the framework has started and the interior renovation of the stadium is also continuing. According to the contract between the constructors and ATHOC, the whole project will be completed by next June, two months before the opening of the Olympic Games.

Isn't that cutting it a bit fine? The constructors are confident. Also, they say the reason the project is to be completed so late is that it started late. This is because they have had to be cautious about the transformation plan. All the designs for stadiums, whether newly-built or through transformation, need to be approved unanimously by ATHOC, relevant government departments and other agencies related to the Olympic Games. Only then can construction begin. So the design for each project is carefully selected. In the end, he told us next June is the deadline of the project. In any case, we are assured it is likely that the project will be finished ahead of time.

Aktor Company is also responsible for the transformation of the nearby bicycle track. The main task is restoring its ceiling. The difference is that the ceiling this time is an integrated framework, not a two-wing structure. So far, half of the welding work for the ceiling has been completed. After it's finished, a giant framework weighing 6,000 tons will be moved 100 meters up onto the top of it.



Up close and personal.

By Shan Jinliang

Quan Li always liked cats. But after years spent studying and teaching abroad and working in the fashion business, it was only on holiday in Africa that she discovered a special affinity with the magnificent big cats of the wild. Soon she decided to throw in her career and devote her life to what is now her cause: saving the South China Tiger or China Tiger from extinction. There are only 30 of these magnificent animals left alive, so efforts to save them are more urgent than ever.



Cheese!

Lonely childhood

Despite her fashionable appearance and obvious confidence, Quan Li says she was a shy girl during her childhood, partly because she didn't get on too well with her parents. She made few friends at school, so she formed the habit of adopting stray cats. This infuriated her parents, and made the little girl yearn for independence.

Her brother Quan Qi was her only ally in looking after her cats, but each time her parents discovered her new pet they would drive it out of the home.



The fashion queen

The thin and often silent girl finally got to keep her first cat when she became a student. She got high scores at school so Quan was able to study at Beijing University. There was no major in wildlife protection at that time, so she opted for English, with sociology as her second subject.

She stood out at university with her long hair and unusual sense of fashion. She caught the eye of Guy Leanarts, a Belgian boy studying at the university



A loving embrace: Quan and Stuart

'The China Tiger campaign will have a long-term impact on China, and it will change Chinese people's minds about environmental and wildlife protection.'

— Quan Li on the foundation website

who later brought her back to Belgium and married her in 1984.

From Belgium to America

Quan's departure for Belgium was delayed by a small bureaucratic hitch. She refused to abandon her cat, Wawa. The Belgian authorities demanded that she conduct quarantine checks in China and it was a month before the paperwork was complete and the couple were able to leave. However, her marriage soon ended in divorce as Quan refused to be dependent on her husband's wealthy family. Instead, Quan made a living by teaching Chinese and then working for Jensen Pharmaceutical. But it was still difficult for her to get ahead, as her Beijing University diploma didn't get that much local recognition. So Quan decided to study for an MBA at the University of Pennsylvania in the US. She borrowed money from some friends and worked for Coca-Cola to pay her way. During her two years study, she met an American student called Stuart Bray, who later became an investment banker and is now Quan Li's husband.

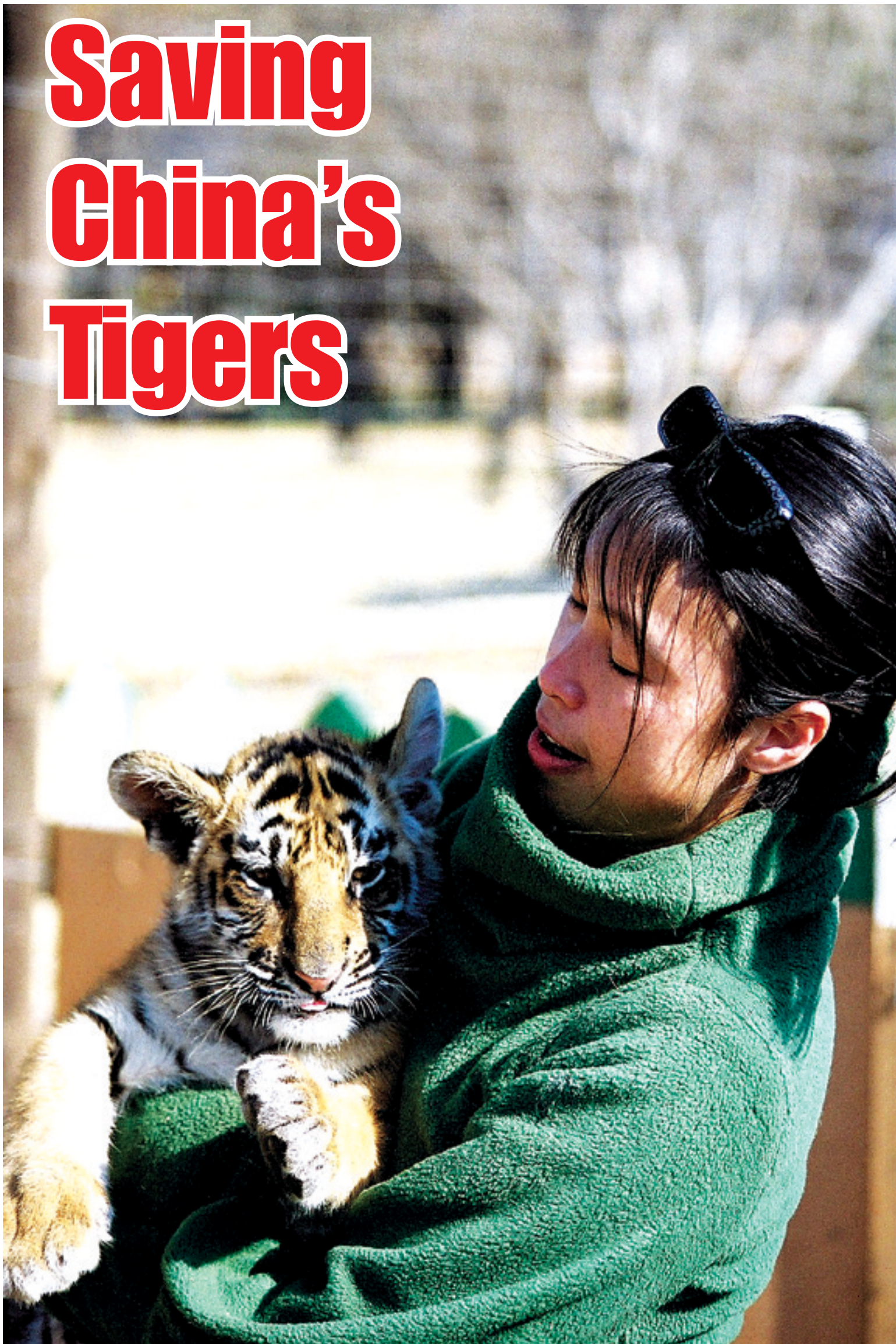
After graduating, Quan set out on a seven-year fashion career, working for Fila, Benetton and Gucci in Italy. "I loved clothes design when I was young," says Quan. "But I had no talent for it, so I entered on the commercial side. Eventually though, I found fashion was not about beauty, just business." She was also tired of the constant traveling and only getting to see Stuart, who was living in London, on weekends. So Quan quit in 1997 and moved to London. Now the couple were able to take more holidays together and soon they decided on a trip to Africa.

Eye of the lion

During her first trip to Zambia's Luwanga National Park in 1997, Quan, Stuart and the tour guide accidentally stumbled upon a pride of lions and their cubs. Quan paid no attention to the danger and kept filming the lions until the tour guide warned her to back off. They eventually backed out and got away to safety. Quan felt the lions had been communicating with them by giving them a chance to leave their territory. She also fancied she saw a certain fragility in their eyes. From then on, she began to think of life in a different way and of her own place in nature.

Through her travels, Quan Li discovered that Africa was doing something very useful in conservation. The wildlife were making money for the local residents through tourists and in that way they were protecting their own habitat in the national reserves. It's a model of sustainable wildlife conservation that Quan decided to try and import to China. Quan, now 41, was born in the year of the tiger and this seemed a further incentive.

In a trip to Thailand shortly afterwards, Quan had an even closer brush with a big cat. Accompanied by a few monks, Quan went to see eight Indian Tigers who had been saved from poachers. Quan got a little too close and suddenly felt two tiger paws against her shoulders, and a mouth breathing on her neck. Then she felt the tiger pulling on her bag. Quan decided to pat the tiger on the head. It seemed to become playful and grabbed her bare leg with its mouth. Though nervous, Quan knew it was a friendly action. But if she tried to pull her leg away, she



knew she might get bitten. So she patted the tiger on the head again and scratched behind its ears, just as she would with a house cat. This made the tiger even happier and it loosened its mouth from her leg and rubbed its head on her leg.

Quan Li was deeply touched by this encounter. She was struck by the contrasts: fierce and tender, strong and beautiful, sweet and aggressive, all at the same time.

Determined

When she returned to Beijing, Quan told her brother about her idea to help China's tigers and he was very enthusiastic. In 1999, the two went to talk to the State Forestry Administration of China. Quan learned that the

administration had been trying to protect the South China Tiger since 1990 by setting up a number of reserves. And since 1997, they have been trying to establish a breeding center in Meihuashan in Fujian Province. Quan offered to help promote the Meihuashan plan overseas.

Her efforts to seek help from western wildlife conservation organizations weren't too successful. "The organizations would not even touch my project," Quan says.

But Quan didn't give up. In October 2000, she established the charitable foundation "Save China's Tigers" (www.savechinastigers.org), the first charity organization aimed specially at the preservation of

China's tigers. The foundation's mission is to protect the tigers by restoring the ecosystem of their habitat. The State Forestry Administration of China showed support by drafting the South China Tiger Salvation Action Plan.

Winning over the husband

Meanwhile, Stuart, who had always been an environmentalist, was having some doubts about the change that had come over Quan. She was focused on her task and was willing to spend a lot of money to fund the foundation

"In early 2001 I invited a foreign experts' team to China as a cooperative project with the forestry administration," says Quan, "and I gained the support of many noted conservationists such as Dr. Gary Koehler and Howard Buffet, son of the billionaire Warren Buffet. Stuart started to see that my project could actually make a difference. He decided to support me wholeheartedly without asking him to do so."

Touched by Quan's passion, Stuart proposed to her without informing his parents who had objected to the idea of their son marrying a Chinese girl. They got married on August 1, 2003. He has been a generous donor to the foundation, paying US\$4 million towards a 300-plus-square-kilometer project in

South Africa to help breed China Tigers. Many conservationists offered to help, even for free. On September 2, two tiger cubs, were selected from Shanghai Zoo and flown to the South African reserve.

Looking to the future

"The China Tiger campaign will have a long-term impact on China," says Quan Li on the foundation website, "and it will change Chinese people's minds about environmental and wildlife protection."

Quan is still seeing less of Stuart than she'd like, about three to six days per month in fact. But she's confident in her second marriage, knowing her husband loves her from the heart. In her spare time, she still finds time for beautiful clothes, but has no time for her own designs. There are also other trips she's eager to fit into her schedule. "I am trying to find time to visit some of the ancient cultural sites in Iraq and Afghanistan."

According to Quan's program, the two tigers in South Africa and their offspring will be introduced back into China's wildlife pilot reserve in 2008, the year when Beijing hosts the Olympics. Quan flew to Chongqing last Saturday to check up on progress for the planned reserve for the tigers.



At a wildlife park in South Africa

Photos provided by Quan Qi

Beijing Bones

Ancient grave site sheds light on life of primitive humans

By Zhang Huan

The recent discovery of a 10,000-year-old skeleton in Beijing's Mentougou District has sent ripples of excitement through archeological circles. Experts say the find will provide valuable evidence about how upper cave man, primitive humans who appeared more than 30,000 years ago, moved from their mountain cave dwellings to the plains.

The wholly intact skeleton was unearthed at the Donghulin Relics site, about 80 kilometers west of downtown Beijing. It was buried in a grave, along with stone, pottery, bone and shell artifacts.

Significant discovery

The skeleton was unearthed during a joint excavation at the Donghulin Relics site by the School of Archaeology and Museology of Beijing University and Beijing Institute of Cultural Relics.

When it was found, the left eye socket showed some slight damage. A short piece of light green jade lay between the nose and upper lip, measuring eight centimeters in length and 1.5 centimeters in diameter. Some of the experts who participated in the excavation believe the skeleton, which measures 1.6 meters, is probably that of a female in her thirties, from the appearance and size of the pelvis, however further study of the skull, teeth and pelvis is needed to confirm the age.

Next to the skeleton were placed a stone stick and a stone plate. These were tools used by primitive human beings to remove the husks from grain. Nearby were scattered several stone fire enclosures, each less than one meter in diameter, containing traces of ashes.

Few new stone age relics have been discovered in northern China, according to archeologists, and the Donghulin Relics site is the only one place where graves and fire enclosures have been discovered together with pottery, stone, bone and clam artifacts.

Moving to Beijing University

On October 30, the newly unearthed skeleton, along with the other artifacts, were transported to Beijing University, where further study will be carried out.

Moving the delicate cargo was a complex

process, which took a total of 29 hours. To ensure no damage was done to the skeleton, the archaeological team transported it integrally with the soil around it. It was sprayed with water and covered with special paper to prevent it from drying out during the trip.

The most difficult part was maneuvering the 500-kilogram wooden box containing the skeleton and soil down the slope of the excavation site through a wooded area to the truck. It took more than 10 people using

crowbars, shovels, ropes and iron chains to complete the task. The skeleton that had laid buried for around 10,000 years finally arrived at Beijing University on the evening of October 30.

Donghulin Relics

The Donghulin relics site is located half a kilometer west of Donghulin village in Zhaitang, Mentougou District. It is known locally as the "Grave Slope," because human bones are so often found there.

In 1966, Professor Hao Shougang, then a student in the geological department of Beijing University found three incomplete skeletons there while leading

some younger students to reclaim the land. Besides the three skeletons, necklaces made of spiral shells, bone bracelets and stone artifacts were also discovered.

Hao knew from his study of soil layers that they must be ancient skeletons. He covered them with corn sheaths and waited for a team of archaeologists to arrive.

Research conducted at the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology determined that the skeletons were from the early period of the new stone age, about 9,000 to 10,000 years ago. Two were male adults and the other was a teenage girl wearing bone bracelets. The fossilized skeletons were subsequently dubbed Donghulin Man.

In 1995, villagers digging the ground found another skeleton. But to his dismay, Professor Hao found the precious skull had been smashed in to small pieces when he arrived at the site. The professor says more excavation work needs to be done at the site and that more ancient remains are likely to be discovered.



Experts believe the skeleton, which measures 1.6 meters, is probably that of a female in her thirties.

Photo by Cao Boyuan



A wooden crate containing the earth-encased skeleton is transferred to Beijing University.

Photo by Huang Liang

Digital Forbidden City

By Zhao Pu

A special research center has been established by the Palace Museum and a Japanese company to develop ways to better showcase China's centuries-old architectural and cultural relics.

The Cultural Assets Digitalization Research Center of the Forbidden City was officially opened on October 26. During the opening ceremony, a three-dimensional image was displayed of the section of the Forbidden City between Tian'anmen and the Hall of Supreme Harmony.



Photo by Su Guanning

The research center will create three-dimensional images of all the museum's buildings and previously undisplayed parts of its extensive and priceless collection of artworks and cultural relics. These images will be displayed in a virtual reality theater that is planned for the museum.

The project, involving an investment of 500 million Japanese yen (37 million yuan) from Japanese investor Toppan Printing, is said to be the first such joint venture for the Forbidden City.

The application of digitalization technology in the theater will make it possible for visitors to see more relics in even greater detail than is possible with the naked eye. High-tech processes will also be employed in the management and protection of the ancient architecture and relics, said director of the Palace Museum, Zheng Xinmiao, at the opening.

The Forbidden City, or Palace Museum, is world-renowned for its collection of nearly one million pieces of rare and ancient cultural relics.

The number of cultural relics on display at present represents only one percent of the total collection, and only one third of the ancient buildings within the museum are open to the public.

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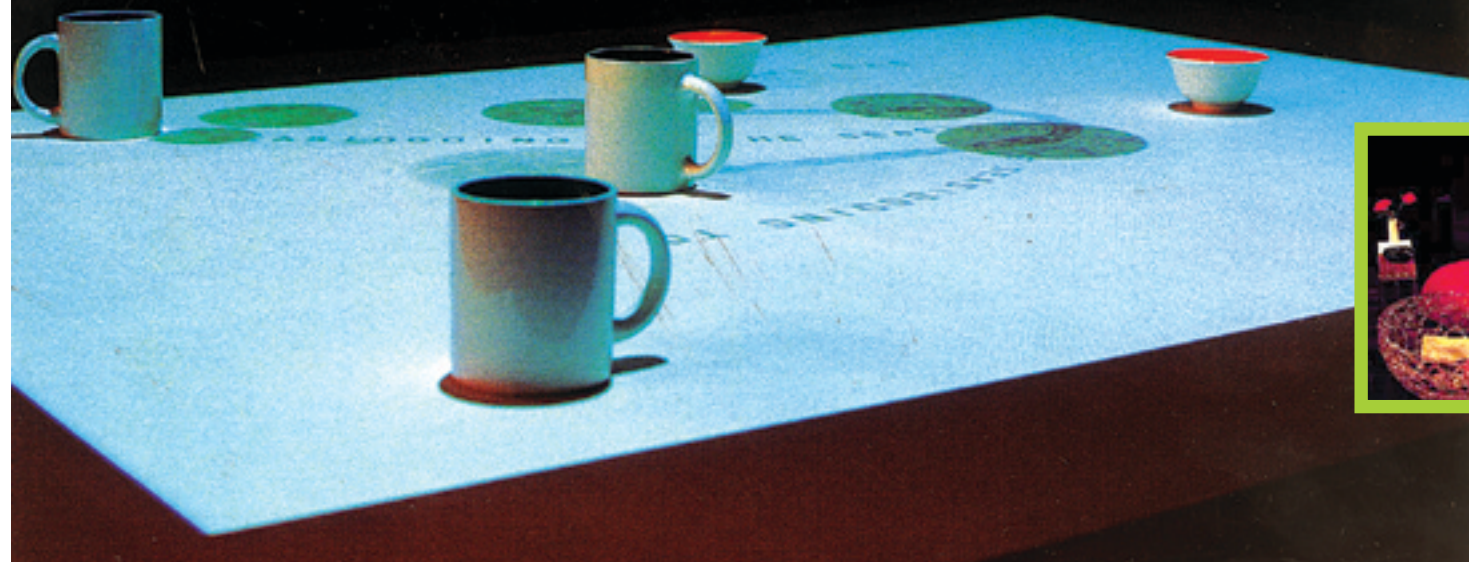
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Living Space Rethought by UK Designers in Hometime



By Yu Shanshan

The timing of *Hometime*, an exhibition of British interior design concepts, is impeccable. With residential housing construction booming in China, many homeowners and people considering buying houses are taking serious interest in interior decoration.

"We encouraged our designers to bring as many fun ideas as they could, even if the results didn't look too practical," said Michael O'Sullivan, Cultural Counselor and Director of the British Council, the organizer of the exhibition.

The entertaining show at the China Millennium Monument Art Museum is divided into eight theme rooms. Each room contains the works of one of eight British designers or design firms targeted at the needs of different people, including celebrities real and fictional. All the designs embody three key concepts that have become popular words in China's real estate market.

Privacy

"Impractical" is the understated description O'Sullivan used in referring to *Celebrity Retreat*, a pink bathroom designed specifically for celebrity couple Victoria and David Beckham. Fashion Architecture Taste (FAT) filled the room with two bathtubs, two sinks and two toilets that have been fused together into a heart shape.

A more alluring feeling of privacy pervades *Boudoir* by Dutch designers Tord Boontje and Iles Crawford. The room contains a Swarovski Blossom

Chandelier and transparent glass and minimalist metal furniture, giving it a modern, classy feel.

Function

Some designers gave clear thought to the requirements of people with special needs. Ben Kelly Design created *Den* as a fun and functional place for the blind. Zhang Ping, a student from the Shanghai School for the Blind, helped the designers come up with a flexible furniture unit for sleeping, working and relaxing. Contrasting textures and raised symbols were put on the unit to help Zhang get his bearings and locate his things.

The main idea of the designs in *Front Room* by the Arcola Collective, is accommodating the needs of the elderly. Before starting actual planning and crafting, the designers interviewed many people over the age of 60 about their lives, experiences and attitudes towards design. The responses from the interviews can be viewed on a small TV display at the far end of the room.

That collective wisdom was then put to use in many different items. Liss-Dionne Morris' glasses are comfortable to hold and come in attractive blue, gardening scissors by Wilkinson Sword are light but have serious cutting power, and Kenwood came up with a safe and easy-to-use electric kettle and toaster.

Novelty

Probably the most creative rooms, or at least the most outlandish, were designed for the needs of people long

dead, or never even alive, such as Block Company's *Home Office*, intended as an ideal workroom for fictional sleuth Sherlock Holmes.

Since the *Hometime* show is only touring this country, some Chinese elements were incorporated, particularly in London-based company Digit's *Virtual Home* for Chinese football player Li Tie, who joined the UK's Everton Football Club in 2002. The remarkable space is not intended as a living area, but rather an as interactive window into Li's world.

The room operates as a high-tech game for two players. On a table standing in the middle of the room are a few teacups and mugs, the blue ones representing Li's life in Britain and the red ones representing his life in China. The seemingly simple piece gets interestingly interactive when visitors move the cups, triggering broadcasts of recordings of Li's thoughts and memories. Some of his words also appear on a display integrated into the table.

Visitor Yu Xixiang, vice president of the White House Advertising Company, concluded, "In the end, this room transcends simple interior design. It shows that design has become a whole new means of communication."

Hometime: 8 Rooms exhibition is open from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm daily through November 12 at the No. 2 Film Studio, B section of the China Millennium Monument Art Museum. Tickets are 5 yuan each. Ticket hotline: 6852 7108

The interactive Virtual Room for Chinese football player Li Tie



Detail of the Blossom Chandelier by Tord Boontje for Swarovski in the room Boudoir



Cleopatra sofa by Geoffrey Harcourt for Artform and Tom Dixon's Povista plastic Fresh Fat Bowl in Drawing Room



The "chemical corner" of Sherlock Holmes' Home Office



Electric kettle and toaster by Kenwood in Front Room



Part of Workshop, designed by Michael Marriott for Victorian-era engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel



Toast to Cuba Libre!

Chinese translation of famed speech by Fidel Castro reprinted

By Yu Shanshan

Fifty years after he led forces that changed the fate of the nation of Cuba, the ideas of Cuban revolution leader Fidel Castro are up for review and reevaluation by Chinese readers. At the end of last month, the World Knowledge Publishing House republished a Chinese translation of *History Will Absolve Me*, a famed speech given by Castro, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of an attack by his rebel forces that changed the course of Cuba's future on July 26, 1953.

On that day, Castro, then 26, and 160 other revolutionaries attempted to overthrow the Batista government by staging a coup and attacking a military garrison – the Moncada barracks in Santiago. Though the attack was an immediate disaster, with the majority of the rebel troops either killed in combat or captured (as Castro was), the event proved a turning point in the Cuban revolution. Castro was sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment, but was released under amnesty within one year. In 1958, he returned from exile in Mexico to oust the Batista regime and assumed power the next year.

Castro wrote the speech as part of a statement of self-defense presented during his final trial in front of the Cuban court on October 16, 1953. In it, he penned the famed lines, "Condemn me. It does not matter. History will absolve me." Copies of the speech were smuggled out of his prison cell and then reprinted by supporters of the revolution.

The speech consists of four major parts – an analysis of the July 26 attack and its failure, Castro's ideas for solving Cuba's many social problems such as unemployment, illiteracy, and class strife, the exposure of the massacre of revolutionaries and general suffering of the people under Batista, and enthusiastic calls for an end to that regime.

The World Knowledge Publishing House first published a Chinese version of the speech in the 1960s. This edition has been updated with a new preface written by Castro himself on October 1.

Cuban revolutionaries have become subjects of real interest among many young Chinese, particularly in Beijing, since a hit play about Che Guevara and his comrades was staged in 2000. Chen Haosu, head of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, said at a press conference last Thursday that he hoped the new edition of the book would be able to teach valuable lessons to another generation of Chinese youth.

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Double Film Honors for Xu Jinglei

By Dong Nan

Actress and filmmaker Xu Jinglei scooped the awards for best actress and best new director at the 12th Baihua (Hundred-flower) Film Awards Saturday night.

Xu won the awards, which are determined by popular vote, for her role in *Kaiwang Chun-tian de Ditie* (*Subway to Spring*) and her directorial debut *Baba he Wo* (*My Father and I*).

Since 1992, the Baihua Awards have been held in conjunction with the Jinji Awards, which are decided by a panel of film industry people and critics.

The Baihua Best Film went jointly this year to *Chongchu Yamaxun* (*Rush out of Amazon*), *Hero* and *Deng Xiaoping*. Lu Qi won Best Actor for his portrayal of Deng Xiaoping in that movie.



Xu Jinglei receives her award for best actress.

Photo by Photocom

Charity Concert to Combat Hepatitis

By Dong Nan

Following his solo concert at the end of last month, Hong Kong pop star Nicolas Tse is returning to Beijing with a host of performers to give a special concert to raise money for hepatitis prevention.

The concert, to be held on November 22, will also feature Dave Wong, Eason Chan, Edison Chen, Joey Yung and pop group Twins. Film superstar Jackie Chan will also make a cameo appearance.

All proceeds from ticket sales are to be donated to the Shidai Wu Ganyan Foundation, which is run by the Wu Jieping Medical Foundation, Cheng Siyuan Hepatitis Research Foundation and China Hepatitis Prevention and Cure Foundation.

"We are so glad to do such a good deed," said Charlene Choi, of rising female group Twins, at a press conference last week, "though most of our songs are



Twins at the press conference

in Guangdong dialect, we believe Beijing people would like them, and we will do our best."

The concert will also feature a tribute to Hong Kong singer Roman Tam, who died last year of liver cancer.

Free Style Folk

By Jiang Xiuqing

Some seek to express their inner selves through music, some seek reputation and fame through music, however, Xiaohe wants to make people happy through music — his songs let people know that music is something free-spirited and psychic.

Xiaohe's innovative style as a fashionable folk singer is typified by his singing, which ranges from a hoarse murmur to a touching croon, and his inspired compositions.

Songs from his album *Feide-*

gao de Niao buluozeai Paobukuia de Niu de Beishang (*A High-flying Bird Never Lands on the Back of a Slowly-running Ox*) are imbued with his changeable but alluring tunes and rhymes.

Line up:

Vocal: Xiaohe Guitar: Wan Xiaoli Accordion: Zhang Weiwei Percussion: Guo Long

Feidegao de Niao buluozeai Paobukuia de Niu de Beishang: 2002

Recommendations: *So Ma Hang*, *Ruguo Ni Xiangxin* (*If you believe*), *Tiaoxiaqu* (*Dive*)



WORLDWIDE



Britney Spears

Britney Spears Pulls Out of UK MTV Awards Ceremony

Pop star Britney Spears, who caused a media sensation when she shared an open-mouthed kiss on stage with Madonna, has pulled out of this week's MTV Europe Music Awards due to illness, organizers said Tuesday.

"Unfortunately, she is not well. We are disappointed she won't be attending, but we wish her well for a speedy recovery," an MTV spokeswoman said.

Spears' kiss with Madonna at the MTV Video Music Awards two months ago as the 21-year-old's former boyfriend Justin Timberlake looked on proved to be a real showstopper and helped win her global coverage. (Reuters)



Richard Belzer

Belzer Runs with "Arnold" Documentary

Comedian and "Law and Order: Special Victims Unit" co-star Richard Belzer has signed on to narrate "Running With Arnold," a feature documentary following Arnold Schwarzenegger's whirlwind transformation from action hero to governor of California.

The documentary is being written and directed by veteran entertainment journalist Dan Cox, who also is producing with Judy Orbach. (Reuters)

Michael Jackson's Bentley to Be Auctioned

Michael Jackson's custom 2001 Bentley Arnage Red Label Turbosedan, used to ferry entertainers to his Neverland

Ranch and in the making of the *What More Can I Give?* charity music video, is on the auction block.

With 13,600 miles on the odometer, it's loaded with pop star upgrades: two DVD players, three flat screen video monitors, CD changer and video gaming system operational at each seat.

Performers on the music video autographed the interior ceiling. Among them were Jackson, Beyonce Knowles, Reba McEntire, Nick Carter, Shawn Stockman from Boyz II Men and Tom Petty. (AP)



Michael Jackson

Charles Launches Bollywood Film on 1857 Uprising

Prince Charles, on a nine-day trip to India, sounded a clapperboard Tuesday to launch the filming of a Bollywood movie on the first major Indian uprising against British rule.

"Mahurat shot, take one," said Charles as he launched the period film, *The Rising*, in Bombay, the heart of India's film industry which churns about nearly 1,000 films a year. (Reuters)

CBS Cancels Reagan Mini-Series Amid Controversy

CBS television, under mounting pressure from political conservatives, on Tuesday canceled its controversial mini-series *The Reagans* and sold the docudrama to its sister pay-cable network Showtime.

A statement from the Viacom owned network said the decision was "based solely on our reaction to seeing the final film, not the controversy that erupted around a draft of the script." (Reuters)



James Brolin and Judy Davis are seen as Ronald and Nancy Reagan.

Tango Time

By Dong Nan

Perhaps the only activity that rivals the popularity of football in Argentina is the tango. Beijing audiences will have a chance to experience some genuine Argentinian tango when *Tanguera* (*Tango Woman*) is staged at Tian Qiao Theater later this month.

According to a press release, *Tanguera* is "a bold combination of the body language of tango, narrative style of Hollywood and the musical stage design of

Broadway." It tells a tragic love story of a French immigrant woman in Argentina during World War I.

Mora Godoy, the choreographer and star of the musical is known as the "queen of tango" in Argentina. This will be her visit to China.

The musical features elaborate costumes, sets and lighting, all of which have been shipped from Argentina.

Tanguera will be staged at the Shanghai Grand Theater from November 16 to 23 and opens for a five-day season in Beijing on November 25.

北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY
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房地产版(英文版)
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By Dong Nan

Consumers looking to make a fashion statement based on another ancient culture should check out the goods on offer at the Yiwai Shishang, or Eygood, stores, specialists in items inspired by ancient Egypt.

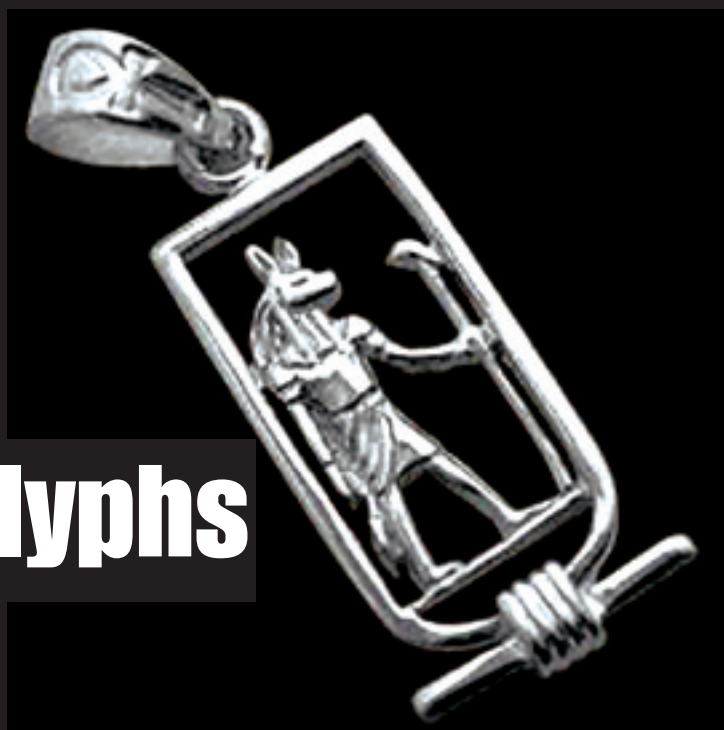
Buying at Eygood starts by consulting the store's hieroglyph alphabet, in which each glyph is assigned a corresponding English letter. Using this primer, customers can translate their English or Chinese pinyin names into Egyptian hieroglyphs. Those names can then be forged into attractive and truly personal silver pendants.

Eygood offers the talismans in a range of 13 styles, each named after a famed Egyptian persona. The cheapest and most popular choice is called "traditional Isis" and costs 128 yuan per piece. The most expensive style comes in a pair, one white, one black, designed for couples and priced at only 225 yuan. The hieroglyphs can also be forged onto made-to-order rings and charm bracelets. Customers need to be ready to wait three to five days for customized items to be made.

The store's shelves include a variety of ready-to-sell silver jewelry inspired by ancient Egypt and priced from 100 to 300 yuan per piece. Some interesting rings and pendants carry images or symbols of pyramids, famed personas such as Tutankhamun and Cleopatra or ancient gods.

Where: 50 meters from west end of Dongsu Dongfusi Buxingjie, Dongcheng **Open:** 10am - 9pm **Where:** Sixth floor, Huawei Dasha, Xidan, Xicheng **Open:** 8:30 am - 9pm **Tel:** 8401 5545 (Eygood headquarters)

Hip Hieroglyphs



Anubis pendant, 228 yuan



Personalized "Isis" pendant, 128 yuan

Lights from the Land of the Rising Sun

By Chen Si

The beauty and subtlety of the Japanese aesthetic can be difficult to replicate at home, but one easy way to add a Japanese feel to a room is to pick up a classy lamp at shop No. 4074 in the Yaxiu Market.

The store's lamps come in table, floor and hanging varieties in a range of shapes and textures. Some are made with stands formed from bamboo treated for longevity. Their lampshades are made of sheepskin printed with decorative patterns of maple leaves or Japanese calligraphy.

Among these lights, one that stands out is a replica of a 17th century carriage (600 yuan). The lamp forms the body of the carriage, while the bulb inside looks like a passenger.

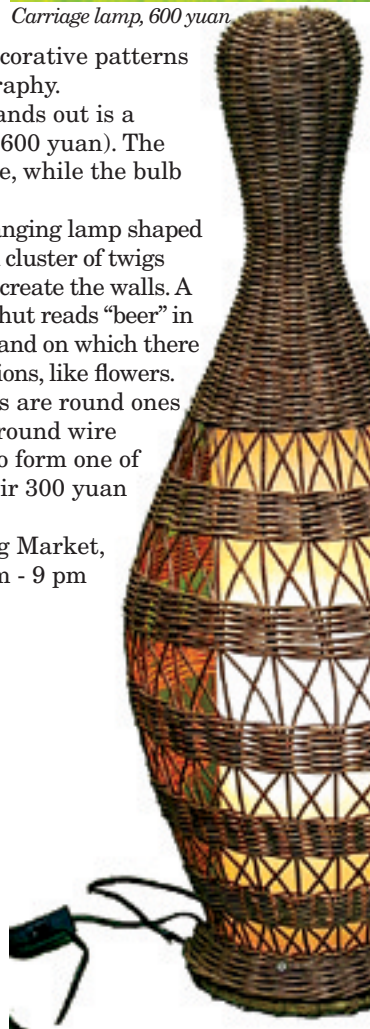
Another eye-catching item is a hanging lamp shaped like a miniature house (600 yuan). A cluster of twigs form the roof, while the lampshades create the walls. A small flag protruding from the little hut reads "beer" in Japanese, and the base includes a stand on which there is a basket for putting small decorations, like flowers.

Simpler and more elegant lamps are round ones woven from weeds and branches around wire frames. It can take over one year to form one of these natural lamps, justifying their 300 yuan prices.

Where: No. 4074 Yaxiu Clothing Market, Sanlitun, Chaoyang **Open:** 9:30 am - 9 pm **Tel:** 13801362039



Carriage lamp, 600 yuan



Bowling pin lamp, 300 yuan

Time, Paper, Scissors

By Wang Xiaoxiao

The walls of the Little Red Leaf store are covered with remarkable flowers and paintings that closer inspection reveals are actually crafted out of paper. The fun shop not only offers the goods needed to make such amazing paper creations on one's own, but also provides instruction in how to do so.

Owner Zhang Hui opened the store as a means to pursue her handicraft hobbies, and her enthusiasm is clear when she describes the goods or helps customers make little works of art with their own hands.

Among the most impressive items on offer are printed thick paper sheets that can be carefully cut and glued back together to form three-dimensional "paintings." Subjects range from scenes of Europe's past to cartoon figures such as Snoopy and reproductions of works by Dutch folk painter Anton Pieck. The latter are the most difficult, as the high degree of detail in the paintings

translates to lots of little parts that should be cut out.

Zhang said that simpler pictures of cartoons or flowers are better for beginners who need to get a hang of the dexterous craft. All of the base materials for the 3-D creations are imported from Japan, Singapore or Holland, meaning they are a little pricey, ranging for 60 to 600 yuan for finished works. Doing it yourself is cheaper and cheerful instruction is offered free of charge.

Where: First floor of Zhuangxiu Building, Yuquan Lu, east of post office, Wukesong, Haidian **Open:** 8 am - 9 pm **Tel:** 6670 6307

Photos by Tian Xiaotong



Clearly Good, Clearly Cheap

By Elva Li

Anyone in the market for nice glassware but turned off by the high prices charged at most local shopping malls should check out the glass store in the second floor of the Beijing Liangma Gardening Market, south of the Lufthansa Shopping center and just across the street from the Sunflower Tower.

It is less a store than a glass warehouse, with over 1,500 kinds of glass vases and assorted containers stashed on shelves or on the ground. Prices are amazingly low. The cheapest item is a 1 yuan mini wine glass and the most expensive a set of European-style glasses that fetches several thousand kuai.

Patience and perseverance pay off here, as a careful, discerning eye will be able to find some real diamonds in the glass rough. The goods may be a little dusty, but quality is the same as at bigger stores where they would go for three to five times as much.

According to store manager Yao Dianzuo, parent company Yuanyi Glassware has set up several branch outlets around the country and lots of their products are exported, showing up in stores in the US and Europe.

Where: Second floor, Beijing Liangma Gardening Market, Maizidian Jie, Chaoyang. **When:** 9 am - 6 pm **Tel:** 6504 4070



Yellow roses, 98 yuan



Paper clock, 108 yuan

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Bamboo scented fried fish (ganji-an zhubayu, 18 yuan)

Chunxiu Chow

By Xiao Rong

When speaking of Chunxiu Road in Chaoyang District, home to several popular dining spots, few regulars do not mention the Feiteng Yuxiang Restaurant, whose reputation for its *shuizhuyu*, or spicy hot pot fish, has brought it and the street culinary fame.

There are a total of eight restaurants in the section of Chunxiu Road near the Feiteng Yuxiang Restaurant. While that is hardly dense compared to other local food streets, the road continues to draw crowds thanks to its interesting, high-quality options.

Spicy fare is the key to the success of Feiteng Yuxiang, which cooks up lots of Sichuan delicacies. The restaurant's delicious version of *shuizhuyu* has not only cemented its popularity, but also sparked the craze for the dish still in place in Beijing. From that solid base, Feiteng Yuxiang has introduced other incendiary dishes, such as *fushouluo* (spicy snails) that have taken the city by storm over the past year.

Some other strong players on the street's dining street are established chain restaurants. One is another Sichuan eater, the Meizhou Dongpo, which has around one dozen branches nationwide.

The Jiutouniao (Nine-Headed Bird) Restaurant, a popular Hubei-style eatery, is another chain outlet operating on the street. The chain has split as a result of messy family discord, but that has not affected business. The large menu offers a range of atypical, southern-style fare sure to impress and less pepper-laden than the food at some nearby competitors.

The chain chain continues with the Fuhua Feiniu Restaurant, a provider of tasty hot pot classed up with slices of high-quality beef.

The dining scene in the Chunxiu Road area is rounded out by two popular restaurants on adjoining Xingfucun Zhonglu. The Yuxin Sichuan Cuisine Restaurant is no less famous than Feiteng Yuxiang, while Sanqianli Shaokao has earned a reputation of its own for its quality Korean-style barbecue fare.

Sichuan Done Right at Meizhou Dongpo

By Xiao Rong

Among the Sichuan specialties worth trying at the Meizhou Dongpo restaurant on Chunxiu Road is arguably the best *Dongpo zhouzi* (stewed pork elbow in ginger spicy sauce) in town.



Braised beef with black bamboo shoot (heisun shaoniurou, 29 yuan)

The restaurant is named after Su Dongpo, a famed Song Dynasty writer, who was a native of the Meizhou area in the southern reaches of the Sichuan Basin. An accomplished gourmand, Su Dongpo was the creator of a cuisine of his own that later developed into an important school of Sichuan cooking.



Sesame sauced jellyfish (xiangma haizhesi, 12 yuan)

Unlike other local restaurants that cut corners, the *Dongpo zhouzi* (28 yuan) at Meizhou Dongpo is made following the strict instructions of Su Dongpo, meaning adding less water and cooking over slow and controlled heat. It is a truly winning recipe that bagged a gold medal for Sichuan cuisine at the 12th National Chef Festival last year. Part of the magic comes from the secret ginger sauce that both flavors and softens the cut of pork, resulting in rich, tender meat and tasty skin that almost melts in the mouth.

Bamboo is a main ingredient in two other dishes certainly worth trying. The braised beef with black bamboo shoot (*heisun shaoniurou*, 29 yuan) is a generous portion of tender beef with smoky, salty shoots, while the bamboo scented fried fish (*ganjian zhubayu*, 18 yuan) offers lots of taste for the money. In the dish, a carp is fried with pickled red peppers and fermented black beans over strips of bamboo with complex and attractive results.

The vegetable offerings on the menu include some items hard to find in other local restaurants, such

as the sauteed pea shoots (*qingchao wandoujian*, 18 yuan), small shoots that are native to Sichuan. A winter specialty is the *hongcailai* (tender flower stalk of rapeseed, seasonal prices), simply stir-fried to retain the greens' original flavor.

Starters and cold dishes worth recommending are the *Meizhou xiangchang* (Meizhou sausage, 15 yuan), one sweet and one spicy, and the new dish sesame sauced jellyfish (*xiangma haizhesi*, 12 yuan). The crunchy jellyfish is chock full of protein and stimulates the appetite for later fare.

Where: No. 7 Chunxiu Road, Dongcheng **When:** 10:30 am - 10:30 pm **Tel:** 6417 1566, 6417 1668 **Average Cost:** 30 yuan per person

Tastes of the West at Xinjiang Tianshan Pai

By Shan Jinliang

When it's time for a meat, starch and spice binge to ward off the winter chills, it may be time to head to the Xinjiang Tianshan Pai Restaurant on Chunxiu Road.

The restaurant's kitchen holds four Xinjiang natives, including head chef Ya Hepu, who was named one of the 25 top Xinjiang cooks by that autonomous region's culinary association. With such a pedigree, it is no surprise that Xinjiang Tianshan Pai draws a steady crowd of famed Xinjiang entertainers.



Roasted lamb leg (kao yangtui, 68 yuan)

Ya personally recommends diners try three items, two dishes and one soup, namely roasted lamb leg (*kao yangtui*, 68 yuan), roasted buns stuffed with mutton or beef (*kao baozi*, 3 yuan each) and restorative mutton soup (*zibu yangroutang*, 38 yuan).

The lamb leg, weighing in at around one kilogram, is enough to feed three or four people on its own. The meat is first cooked for three hours with herbal medicine ingredients such as ginseng and then roasted to perfection. The final result tastes great, with tender, rich meat and crispy skin, and is impressively presented.



Fried mutton with sesame (zhima yangrou, 28 yuan)

differ from regular *baozi* not only in how they are cooked, but also because of their star-like shapes and spicy, delicious stuffing of onion, ground mutton, black pepper and cumin. The restorative soup is not only tasty, but perfectly adept to fend off the Beijing flu thanks to its many medicinal ingredients.

Other Xingjiang specialties worth a try include fried mutton with sesame (*zhima yangrou*, 28 yuan) and little *younang* (3 yuan each), small rounds of traditional Xinjiang bread with oil. A good way to get a meal started is the spicy cold dish *pilahong* (18 yuan), made from tomatoes, green peppers and onions.

Where: No. 7 Chunxiu Road, Dongzhimen, Dongcheng **When:** 9:30 am - 9:30 pm **Tel:** 6416 8831, 6415 9474 **Average Cost:** 40 yuan per person

Hearty Hubei Fare at Jiutouniao By Zhao Pu

The Jiutouniao, or Nine-headed Bird, restaurants represent one of the most successful chain eateries in Beijing, and the one on Chunxiu Road was the sixth of the Wuhan-based Hubei cuisine specialists in the capital and remains the largest.

The restaurant's head chef, Li Guowei, a native of Wuhan, said, "We not only offer genuine Hubei food, but also authentic culinary customs and culture of the province." That claim is backed up by the fact that the chefs in all the restaurants' kitchens are Hubei natives.

The menu is divided into four major categories — steamed dishes, stewed dishes, Wuchang fish and Wuhan snacks. One of the most popular choices in the first group are the pearl balls (*zhenzhu wanzi*, 22 yuan), a steamer full of mildly sea-



Wuchang fish (Wuchang yu, 25 yuan per jin)

soned meatballs covered in sticky rice traditionally served during Spring Festival or other holidays in Hubei. Jiutouniao even upholds the long-standing custom of varying the proportion of lean to fatty meat in the balls according to season.



Meat in stewed pig hoofs with soya beans (huangdou dunzhuti, 28 yuan)

A good choice for these cold days is a soup from the stewed offerings, such as house special Hubei-flavor stewed chicken soup (*Hubei weijitang*, 38 yuan) all but sure to put mom's old chicken soup to shame. The meat in stewed pig hoofs with soya beans (*huangdou dunzhuti*, 28 yuan) is appealingly tender and warming, while the thick soup is nutritious and good for the blood.



Pearl balls (zhenzhu wanzi, 22 yuan)

Another specialty of the restaurant is the Wuhan classic Wuchang fish (*Wuchang yu*, 25 yuan per jin). Diners looking for something a little more pungent can check out the snack fermented bean curd (*chouganzi*, 1 yuan per piece), which tastes similar to Beijing's notorious stinky tofu.

Where: No. 1 Chunxiu Road, Dongcheng **When:** 11 am - 10 pm **Tel:** 6417 0266 **Average Cost:** 50 yuan per person



Braised pig intestine and liver (chaogan)

Kitchen Confessionals

Tasty Organs Originate at Tianxingju

By Xiao Rong

After eight years of studying and cooking, Zheng Jianhua, 40, is only half way towards mastering the complex techniques of making *chaogan*, a local specialty of braised pig intestine and liver.

He is one of the four chefs at the Tianxingju Restaurant, a local institution that has been serving up tasty innards and other treats for 141 years.

"I used to make stir-fried dishes before. Those skills have served as a reference for me as I've learned the techniques for making *chaogan*," Zheng told *Beijing Today*.

The first major step in making the dish, according to Zheng, is to thoroughly wash the intestines, but the chef stopped short of revealing the exact ways in which guts are cleaned at Tianxingju, a method he said was different from and superior to that at most other local restaurants.

Zheng added, "It's a tough job that takes patience. Also, you have to remember to wash away any excess oil on the intestines."

Records of Beijing's culinary history reveal part of Tianxingju's unique washing process, which starts with soaking the raw innards in alkali water, then washing them in salted water and ends with giving them a final scrub in water with vinegar added.

Once the guts are clean, cooking begins by boiling the intestines for at least two hours until they are softened and tender.

"Then comes the most important part — making the flavoring to add to the pot. Tianxingju used to serve a kind of yellow sauce before soy sauce was available, but now we just use soy sauce," said Zheng. "Also, we used to boil the intestines in mushroom broth to make them tastier, but we have a secret new method now."

To the flavored concoction should be added just the right amount of cornstarch. "Correct use of starch makes a nicer looking and thicker dish," explained Zheng.

Tianxingju's *chaogan* has a reputation for having an appealingly strong garlic flavor, though no garlic is evident on the finished product. "The garlic taste comes from the flavorings, made up of ten ingredients including garlic, that soak completely into the *chaogan*," explained Zheng.

He recommended *chaogan* eaters follow the traditional means of consumption, holding a bowl up to one's mouth and slurping the intestines straight out. Zheng noted, "Of course, most modern city people don't eat like that, they use spoons or chopsticks. Beijingers also tend to almost always eat *chaogan* along with *baozi* (steamed stuffed buns) or *shaobing* (baked sesame seed rolls)."

Usually about 80 percent of a bowl of *chaogan* is intestine and 20 percent liver. "Different diners have different tastes. Some prefer more intestines, others more liver. Either way, the people who frequent Tianxingju like our *chaogan* so much that they try to talk me into putting more into their bowls, even though it only costs 2 yuan per bowl," Zheng said with a smile.

"When I first learnt to make *chaogan*, there was a while when I just could not get rid of the smell of the raw intestines. But now, I make it without any unpleasant odor," Zheng added with pride. The clean bowls left by nearly every customer back up his boasting and show that he has some serious *chaogan* chops.



Beijingers tend to almost always eat chaogan along with baozi. Photos by Aily



Zheng Jianhua

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Where: Beijing Sunny Wang Fashion Consultant Studio, 110E, No.14, Building 12, Dengshikou dajie (near the north-east corner of Wangfujing) **Admission:** 80 yuan/hour (including materials) **Tel:** 13911520083 **E-mail:** art8@sohu.com

Movies

Matrix: Revolutions

In *The Matrix Revolutions*, the final chapter in the *Matrix* trilogy, the rebels' long quest for freedom culminates in a final explosive battle. As the Machine Army wages devastation on Zion, its citizens mount an aggressive defense — but can they stave off the relentless swarm of Sentinels long enough for Neo to harness the full extent of his powers and end the war? In English with Mandarin subtitles.

Where: UME International Cineplex, (Huaxing Guoji Yingcheng), 44 Shuangyushu Kexueyuan, Haidian **When:** November 5 to 30 **Admission:** 80 yuan **Tel:** 6261 2851

Zhouyu De Huoche (Zhou Yu's Train)

Set in contemporary Chongqing, Sun Zhou's film stars Gong Li as a socially empowered protagonist, challenging conventional gender roles in an attempt to realize her own desires. Directed by Sun Zhou, Starring Gong Li. In Mandarin.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies, Experience Peking Opera Photo Studio, Kent Center, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu **When:** November 7 - 8, 7:30 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 13901134745

Zheshi Wopengyou De Jia (This Is My Friend's Home)

An interview with contemporary artist Peng Yu and a look at how she creates her collages. Produced by Zhou Jue. In Mandarin.

Where: Hart Salon **When:** November 8, 8 pm **Admission:** 30 yuan, including drinks **Tel:** 6504 6010

Dancer in the Dark (He'an Zhong de Wuzhe)

Bjork gives a stunning performance in this offbeat musical directed by Lars von Trier. She plays Selma, a Czech immigrant in 1960s America trying to make ends meet. Afflicted with a genetic, degenerative eye disorder, Selma also struggles to save up for an operation to save her young son from the same disorder. Billed as the final instalment in von Trier's trilogy that also includes *Breaking the Waves* and *The*



Idiots. In English.

Where: B2M bar, Dongheyan Xiaogu, Ditan Park South Gate **When:** November 11, 8 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6426 1091

Exhibitions

Beijing's Ancient Village Life

A photography exhibition featuring four photographers, Ma Huaimin (China), Hou Yibing (China), Virginia Fumiyo Anami (Japan) and Kosima Weber Liu (Germany) opens today at Beijing Capital Museum (Confucius Temple). This exhibition takes a look at life in Beijing's old villages whose traditional culture is facing a challenge for survival. The four photographers celebrate the beauty of the traditional culture as well as its fragility.

Where: Confucius Temple, 13 Guozijianjie, Dongcheng District **When:** November 7 - 9, daily 9 am - 5 pm **Admission:** 10 yuan **Tel:** 6616 3262



Woodcut by Tang Chenghua

Tang Chenghua graduated from Fujian Normal University and has been living in Japan for over ten years. His paintings, which have been exhibited in New York, draw inspiration from his experiences in Xinjiang, Tibet and Beijing. More than 30 works will be on display.

Where: Central Academy of Fine Arts Gallery, Shuaifuyuan, Wangfujing, 5 Xiaowei Hutong **When:** November 6 - 10, Tuesday to Sunday 9:30 am - 4 pm **Admission:** 5 yuan **Tel:** 6527 7991

Source

Contemporary oil paintings by Yu Zupei, Dang Baohua, Wu You and Fan Mingzheng.

Where: Beijing New Millennium Art Gallery, Diyang Building, 2 Dong Sanhuan Beilu **When:** November 6 - 26, daily 9 am - 6 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8453 6193

Red, Yellow and Blue: Liu Ye

Liu Ye paints cartoonish figures in surreal landscapes and huge fields of colour. His paintings often feature cameo appearances from images used by Mondrian, Magritte, Qi Baishi and other cultural icons such as Tintin. This solo exhibition of new work will have more female figures including Shanghai movie stars of the 1930s.

Where: Schoeni Art Gallery, New Town Soho, 88 Jianguo Lu **When:** November 6 - 30, Tuesday - Sunday, 11 am - 7 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8580 2142

Cheng Mian Solo exhibition

An exhibition of various works by 70-year-old Jiang Su Painter Cheng Mian, including

oil paintings on wood and cloth as well as some woodcuts. Works from his woodcut series, *Masacre in Nanjing* have been collected by museums in Japan, France and Australia.

Where: Beijing International Art Palace Art Gallery, 1st floor, Crowne Plaza Beijing Hotel, 48 Wangfujing Dajie **When:** November 7 to 12, Daily 9 am - 6 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6513 3388 ext 1207/8 **Homepage:** www.faf.elong.com

Huang Yan's Oil Paintings

Huang Yan used to paint landscapes on people's faces and bodies. In 1997 he began to paint on large pieces of cloth. He is regarded as one of the most important avant-garde contemporary artists in China.

Where: Red Gate Gallery, Dongbianmen Watchtower **When:** November 8 - 30, daily 10 am - 5 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6525 1005



Activities

The Ice Breaker

The Den conspires to make you tipsy and then some: mixed drinks are 10 yuan, Tsingtaos 15 yuan, and at the hours of 1 am, 3 am and 5 am Long Iceland Iced Teas are free for fifteen minutes. Yes, Long "Iceland" Iced Teas.

Where: The Den, 4 Gongti Donglu, next to City Hotel main entrance **When:** November 7, 9 am - 3 am **Admission:** 30 yuan **Tel:** 6592 6290

DJ Phil

Swiss DJ Phil comes to the Club tonight with a pumping blend of deep and tribal house.

Where: CD Cafe, Dongsanhuan Lu, south of Agriculture Exhibition Centre (Nongzhan-guan) **When:** November 7, 10 pm **Admission:** 80 yuan, 50 yuan (before midnight) **Tel:** 6501 8877 ext 3032

FM Flappers

Forget all those 70s parties, tonight Club FM goes 30s! Put your hair up and get your best zoot suit out —

there's prizes for the best look!

Where: Club FM, Ritank Park south gate **When:** November 7, 9 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8562 2309

Brasilical

We haven't heard from Steve Barker for a bit, but he's back again, and brassier than ever. Barker and accomplices Wing Ko and Jerry Chan (aka Five Fingaz of Death) show you how to dig up the dancefloor, Brazilian-style. Stick around for the late night grooves.

Where: Vibes, 4 Jiuxiangqiao Lu, just north of Beijing Tokyo Art Projects **When:** November 10 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6437 8082

Dave Phillips Spins

DJ Dave Phillips comes up to Beijing via Shanghai. Come hear a rising star.

Where: The Club, Beisanlitun Nanli, Building 43 **When:** November 8, 8 pm - 4 am **Admission:** 150 yuan, 100 yuan (before 2am) **Tel:** 6417 7791/2/3

Music

Shostakovich

The China Philharmonic Orchestra performs Shostakovich's No. 1 Violin Concerto in E Major and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 in F Minor.

Where: Poly Theater, 1/F, Poly Plaza, 14 Dongzhimen Nandajie **When:** November 7, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 80-680 **Tel:** 6500 1188 ext 5126

Kong Xiangdong in Concert

Kong Xiangdong is one of the most successful young pianists in the world. He has performed in North America, Europe, South Africa and Asia, and has cooperated with many acclaimed symphony orchestras and other music groups. Kong has won many prizes in international music competition including the International Moscow Piano Competition in 1986 and the International Paloma O'Shea Piano Competition in Spain in 1987.

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimenwai Dajie **When:** November 8, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 120 - 800 yuan **Tel:** 6835 4455

Stage

Fauergesicht

An opportunity to get familiar with contemporary German drama. Fauergesicht tells the story of an 18-year-old student's psychological world. Adapted by Cao Kefei. Directed by Lin Zhaohua.

Where: People's Art Experimental Theatre, 3 floor, Capital Theatre, 22 Wangfujing Dajie **When:** till November 15, 7:15 pm **Admission:** 80 yuan **Tel:** 6526 3388

Yue Opera: Liuhua Xi (Liuhua Stream)

Tells the fate of four generations of women in one big family in southern China during the Qing dynasty. Presented by Hangzhou Yue Opera Troupe.

Where: Chang'an Grand Theater, 7 Jianguomennei Dajie **When:** November 8 - 11 **Admission:** 50 - 800 yuan **Tel:** 6510 1309/10

Sports

Marvellous Mountain Peak

Enter deep into the forest area, where Hawk Mouth Hill can be seen nearby, and hike up to east side of the mountain. Amazing views of Changping and Haidian District.

Where: Meet outside Big Easy (Chaoyang Park) **When:** November 8, 8 am - 5 pm **Admission:** 150 yuan for adult, 100 yuan for children under 12 **Tel:** 6553 2228 Email: lucy@highclub.cn

Wood packer trail

A rare trip into the western hills, to the north of the Miao Feng Shan mountains. After climbing up to a fairly steep pass, hikers will be able to explore the Pu Tuo Yuan temple complex, one of the oldest groups of structures around Beijing.

Where: Meet at the Lido outside Starbucks **When:** November 9, 8:30 am **Tel:** 13910025516 **Email:** Huilin@bjhikers.com

Clubs

Friday's Trip

Trip-hop outfit Wednesday's Trip (Xingqisan de Luxing) will play at Red Bar tonight.

Where: Red Bar, Dongdaqiao Xiejie (South Bar Street) **When:** November 7, 6:30 pm - 2 am **Admission:** free **Tel:** 13910668899

Phil's in Cloud Nine

UK DJ Phil Perry, a regular at the Ministry of Sound and Ibiza and known for his Full Circle parties, spins at Cloud Nine tonight.

Where: Cloud Nine, 7 Sanlitun Beijie **When:** November 7 10 pm **Admission:** 80 yuan **Tel:** 6417 8317/8

Full Moon Masquerade Party

Between the full moon, the masks, and shots starting at 10 yuan they're probably going to have a heck of a job cleaning up in the morning. Prize for best mask.

Where: B2M, Dongheyan Xiaogu, Ditan Park South Gate **When:** November 8, 9 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6426 1091



Those Punks!

Tonight Loup Chante returns to its punk roots. Punk being what it is, the exact lineup of tonight's bands is uncertain, and they like it that way.

Where: Loup Chante, 38 Chengfu Shi Wei Ying **When:** November 8, 2 pm - 5 pm **Admission:** 20 yuan **Tel:** 6276 7355

We are glad to receive your feedback. We will print employment, language exchange and accommodation info for individuals. Feel free to email us at bjtoday-info@ynet.com or call 6590 2529
By Dong Nan

By Liu Dong / Shan Jinliang

With winter fast approaching, there are only a few weeks left of reasonable weather for trekking in the countryside around Beijing before snow, ice and sub-zero temperatures turn such activities into an exercise in masochism.

For one last weekend getaway, before hiking boots are exchanged for skis, Yunmeng Mountain has much to offer.

Described sometimes as the “Huangshan of North China,” after the rather more well known “Yellow Mountain” in Anhui Province, Yunmeng Mountain in Miyun County is a national-level forest park. Covering an area of over 2,200 hectares, 91 percent of the park is covered by forest, which is home to various kinds of wildlife.

Yunmeng Mountain is a popular sightseeing destination, and also attracts vacationers, health club groups and primary, middle school and college students.

The Yunmeng Mountain National Forest Park organizes “mountain flowers” tours in April and May, “cloud and fog” tours in July and August and wild fruit-picking tours in September and October. November is the time for countryside hiking at weekends.

It is inevitably crowded on weekends at the resort section of the Yunmeng Mountain National Forest Park, a consequence of the numerous hotels and entertainment venues that have sprung up there, but it is easy to escape the throngs.

While day trippers come into the park from the east, serious trekkers should approach from the western side, starting from Tianxian (Fairy) Waterfall and heading for the mountain peak named Guanhai Tai or Sea-Watching Platform. Such a trek is best attempted with a team of four or five.

Tianxian Waterfall

Tianxian Waterfall is in the northern slope of Yunmeng Mountain. There are over 30 listed scenic spots around the waterfall area. A triple fall totaling 310 meters connects Wangxian, Jiuxian and Jingxian waterfalls, and many deep ponds are to be found in the area.

The waterfalls are at their most spectacular in summer, but at this time of year, it is possible to get much closer as the volume of water is considerably lower.

Evening campfire

After enjoying the waterfalls and a break for lunch, the real mountain hiking begins. The path follows a stream flowing down the mountainside, which disappears and reemerges all of a sudden on the other side of the path.

Although well trodden, trail is tough going, but the beautiful mountain scenery of red leaves and dark seas of forest more than makes up for the hardship. Wild animals are also frequently seen along this section.

Three hours walk from the waterfall, the path becomes steeper and at an altitude of 758 meters, one reaches Yakou. There is less smaller vegetation here, but a large acreage of birch woods comes into view.

In another one hour, you will come to a place called Lenggang-dian, where there is a row of abandoned farmers' houses, and flat ground suitable for pitching a tent a lighting a campfire.

March toward the highest peak

After a quick breakfast at 8 or 9 am, it is time to continue the trek north. An hour's brisk walk will bring you to a spot where the road forks. Take a short rest before heading for the main peak, Sea-Watching Platform, as it is the toughest climb of the two-day trek.

While climbing the mountain, keep an eye out for the many strangely shaped rock formations on the surrounding hills, such as Yingzui Shi (Hawk Mouth Rock), Tianhou Shoumen (Heavenly Monkey Guarding Door), Shenggui Tiantian (Divine Turtle Touching Land) and Huaigu Shiwu (Stone House Memorizing the Past).

The higher you climb, the steeper the path becomes, and becomes clearer why Yunmeng Mountain is known as the Huangshan of North China.

Around two hours later, you will finally reach the peak of Yunmeng Mountain, Sea-Watching Platform, 1414 meters above sea level. White clouds appear are like belts twisting around the mountainside, and looking down though the clouds, the whole mountain scene is a vivid mix of colors in the afternoon sun, made up of red, yellow and green leaves and brown rocks.

Descending down the east side of the mountain, the trail passes through the last section of the trip, called Shidaoyu or Watery Road. Be careful not to get your feet wet, as the weather can quickly turn cold. After three hours of walking, you will come to the gate of Yunmeng Mountain National Forest Park, where you will be charged the park entry fee 26 yuan.

An easier visit to Yunmeng Mountain

The park is open from April to mid-November. Visitors can choose an easier option by entering through the gate of the park. There is a variety of leisure activities and accommodation available here, for those intent on a less strenuous weekend getaway. The Yunmeng Mountain Hotel has 250 beds at varying rates, and there is a large restaurant there.

What to bring

If you are planning on trekking over the mountain, you will need a solid pair of walking shoes and a change of clothing. As temperatures vary considerably from day to night, warm clothing including a thick sweater is essential. A scarf, hat, gloves and a raincoat are also advisable.

You will also need to carry your own tent, sleeping bag and cooking equipment, and of course, sufficient food and water.

Getting there:

Tianxian Waterfall is a 115-kilometer drive from downtown Beijing. Starting at 7 am from Sanyuan Qiao, you should arrive at Tianxian Waterfall around 10 am following Jingshun Road, heading toward Miyun. There is a parking area near the waterfall.

Alternatively, take the Labagoumen bus from Dongzhimen long distance bus station from 6 to 8 am. These buses stop at the park for five hours then return to Beijing.

A dry section of Tianxian Waterfall makes an ideal site for abseiling at this time of year.

Photo by Liu Dong

Hike to Yunmeng Mountain

